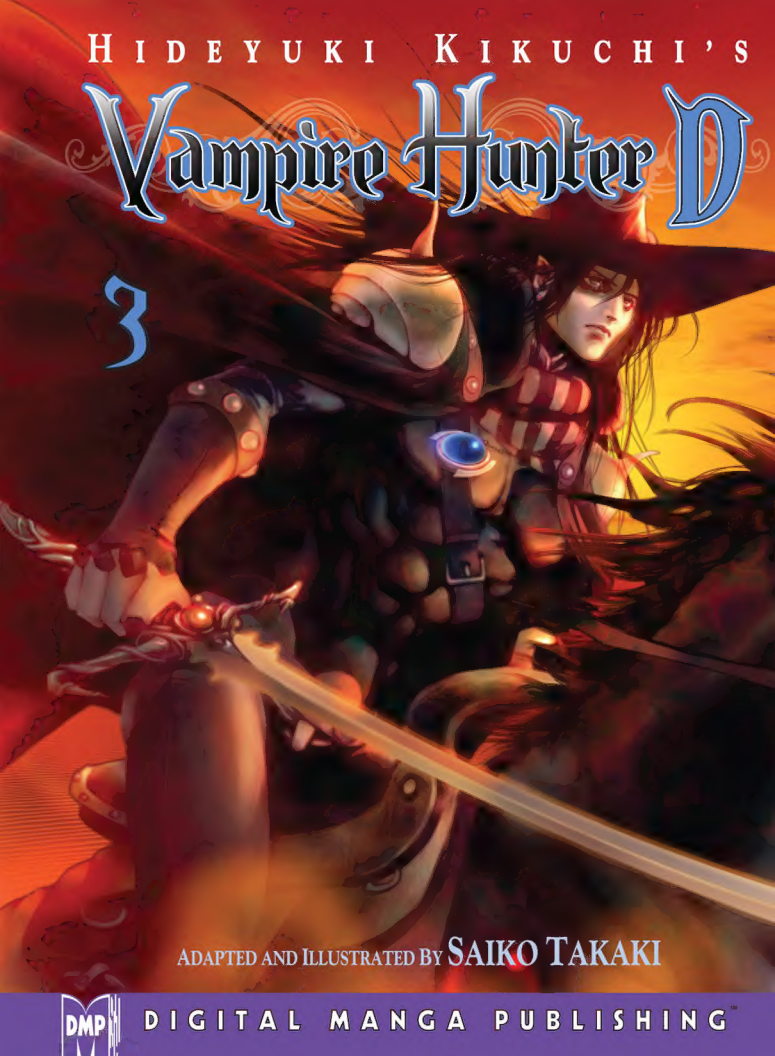
HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S
Vampire Hunter D
3
ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAIKO TAKAKI
DMP
DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

Vampire Hunter D

Volume 3

ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY
SAIKO TAKAKI

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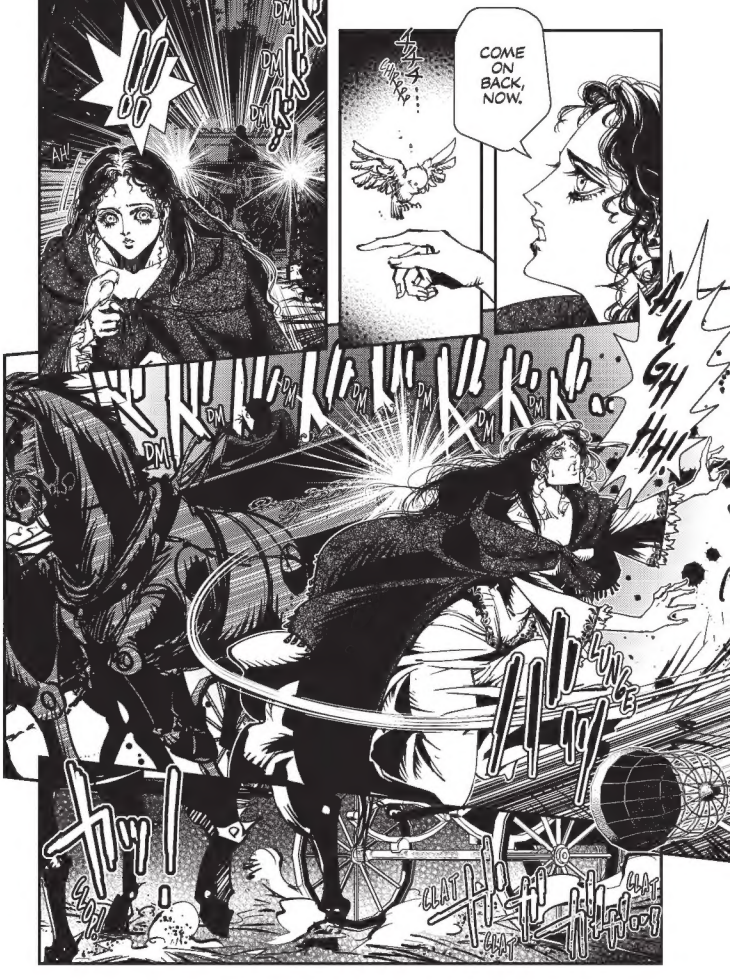
COME ON BACK, NOW.
AH!
AUGHHH!
CLAT
CLAT
CLAT

--A NOBLE!
FWUP

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

Vampire Hunter D

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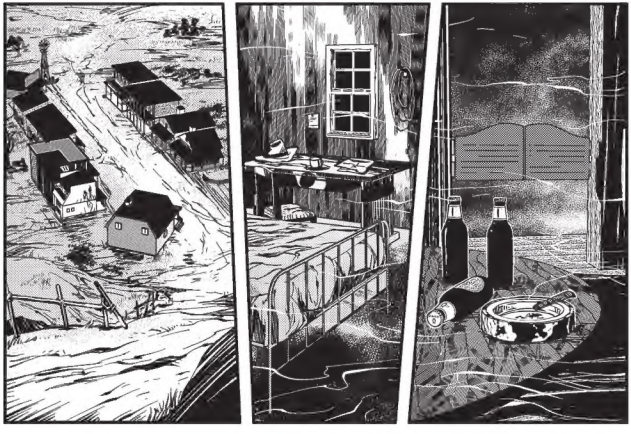


THANK YOU FOR COMING.

...EVERY LAST PERSON HERE'S BEEN DONE IN, INCLUDING ME.

THANK YOU FOR COMING ... BUT, YOU'RE TOO LATE.

IF SHE'S... ONE A' *THEM* ALREADY... KILL HER ON THE SPOT.

SHIVER

--HE TOOK OFF WITH MY DAUGHTER.

CHASE HIM DOWN AND BRING HER BACK...

GO ON... PURSUE HIM.

HE FLED NORTH ...LAST NIGHT.

I BELIEVE ***YOU'RE*** QUICK ENOUGH TO CATCH UP. IF YOU RESCUE HER, GO TO THE TOWN OF ***GALIUSHA.***

MY SISTER LIVES THERE.

PLEASE.

SAVE MY DAUGHTER FROM THIS ACCURSED FATE...

SHNK

BOLK

YOU GOT IT.
LEILA.
STAY INSIDE AND LOOK AFTER GROVE.
TIME'S RUNNING OUT.
NOW THAT NIGHT'S FALLIN', YOU'LL HAVE TO...
FIGHT YOUR WAY OUTTA HERE...
OHH
H
HH

THIS LOOKS LIKE FUN.
KRAAA
BDADUMP
BDADUMP
?!
SWISH
WHOOM

ズバッ

ぐっ…

ドサッ

ドサッ

ドサッ

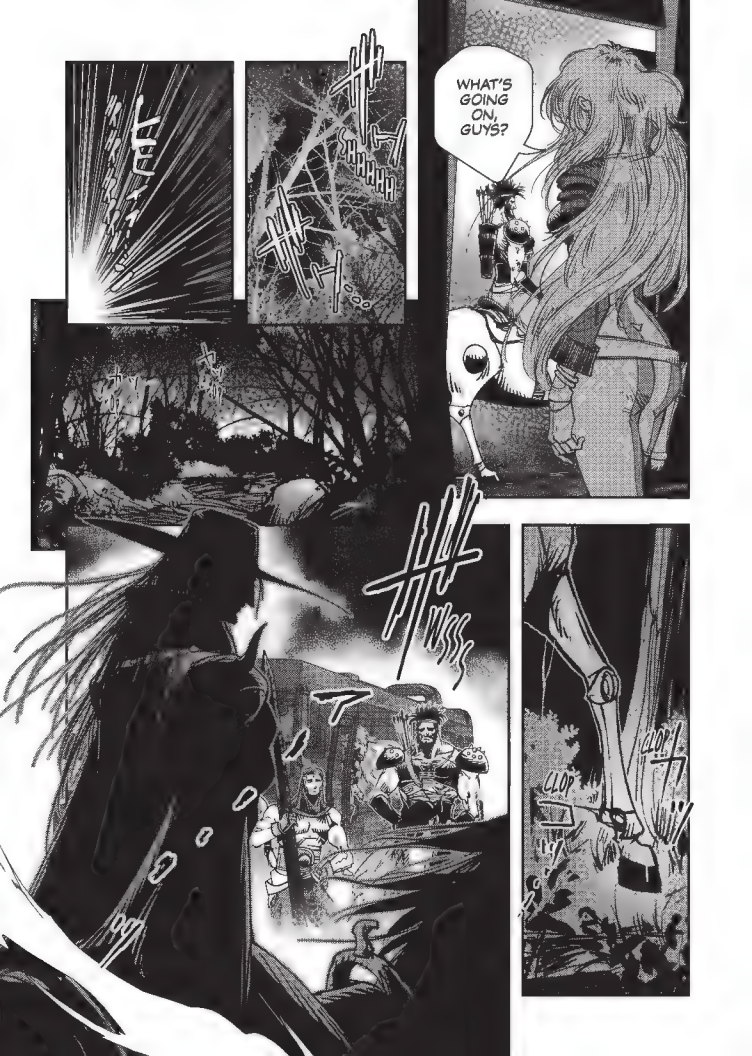
WHMM

SHUFF
SHUFF
SHHK
SHHK
SHMP
THNK
THNK
THOK

ギャアアアアア!!
ギャアアアアア!!

SO...
YOU'RE JUST GONNA HANG OUT THERE IN THE WOODS?
I GUESS YOU DON'T GO FOR PRO-BONO WORK, HUH?

THAT OLD MAN WASN'T TALKIN' TO US...
SO YOU MUST BE IN THE SAME BUSINESS.
THIS JOB'S WORTH TEN MILLION. WHY DON'T WE TALK IT OVER, COME TO SOME ARRANGEMENT?
KCHNG
THIS WAY'S QUICKER, BRO!
SHAAAAA!!
SHMM!


WHAT'S GOING ON, GUYS?
CLOP
CLOP

HOLD UP.
WHERE'S THE HARM IN INTRO-DUCING OUR-SELVES?
MAYBE YOU ARE A HUNTER THE OLD MAN HIRED, BUT SO ARE WE.
WE'RE THE MARCUS CLAN.
I'M THE FOURTH BROTHER --KYLE.
--I'M NOLT, THE SECOND OLDEST.
THE REAL BIG GUY'S OUR OLDEST BROTHER, BORGOFF.

I'M LEILA.
NICE TO MEET YOU--MR. TALKATIVE.
SHE'S THE YOUNGEST.
WE'VE GOT ANOTHER BROTHER, BUT HE'S AN INVALID AND CAN'T LEAVE THE VEHICLE.
THAT'S ALL OF US...
...SO WHO'RE YOU?
.....D.

THUMP
THUMP
SCHWISHH
THE MARCUS CLAN...
THEY'RE SAID TO BE THE MOST HIGHLY SKILLED HUNTERS ON THE FRONTIER.
KAKA
KAKA!

THE NOBILITY THEY'VE BROUGHT DOWN EASILY NUMBER IN THE TRIPLE DIGITS.
AND THEY'RE CRUEL AND RUTHLESS TO BOOT!
...
...
YOU'VE HEARD OF THEM TOO, HAVEN'T YOU?
...THE SAME NOBLE AS THEM LIVES TO TELL THE TALE.
THEY SAY NO HUNTER WHO GOES AFTER...
WHATEVER COULD THIS ALL MEAN?
YOU BETTER BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS THIS TIME AROUND.
HEHEE

WOOSH
DUMP
DUMP
DUMP

NO ENTRANCE, EH...?
CHOOM

SHUU
HFF
TOUCH
HOW MANY ARE INSIDE?
TWO— A MAN,
AND A WOMAN.
I CAN'T TELL IF THEY'RE HUMAN OR NOBILITY.
YOU'D BETTER HURRY. THE SUN'S ABOUT TO SET.

SO, WE MEET AGAIN.
BRRRRRRRRRM
YOU CAN'T ONE-UP THE MARCUS CLAN, NOT AS LONG AS I'M AROUND.
VROMM
BRRMP
BRRMBRRM
MOVE ASIDE, THEN.
IS THE PREY IN THERE?
BRRROM

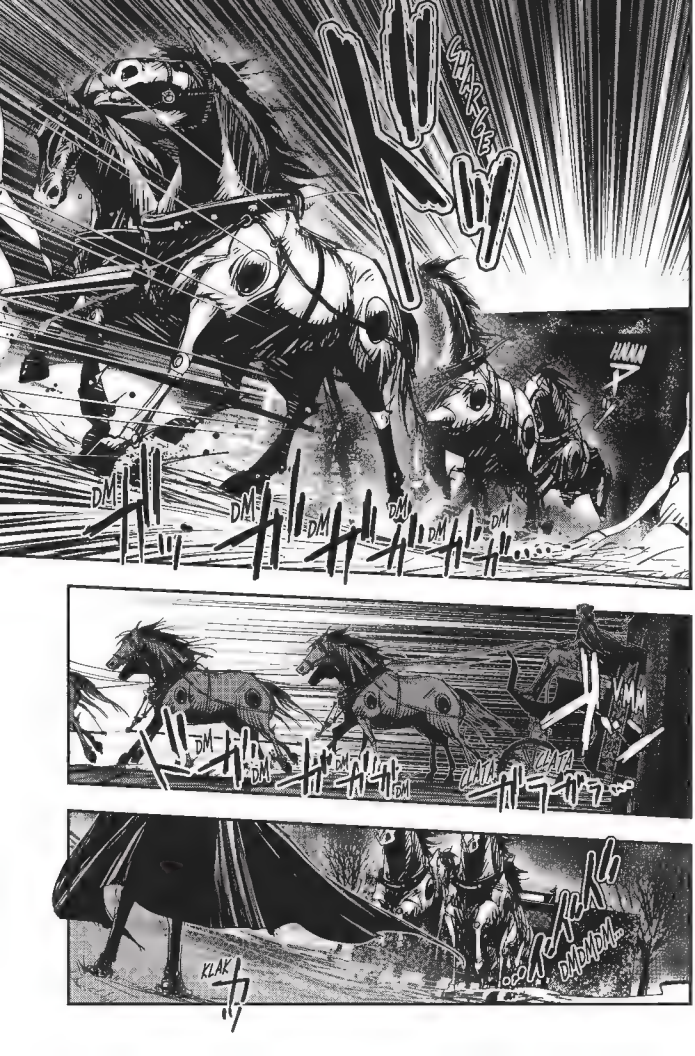
SHOM
WHAM!
VRRR

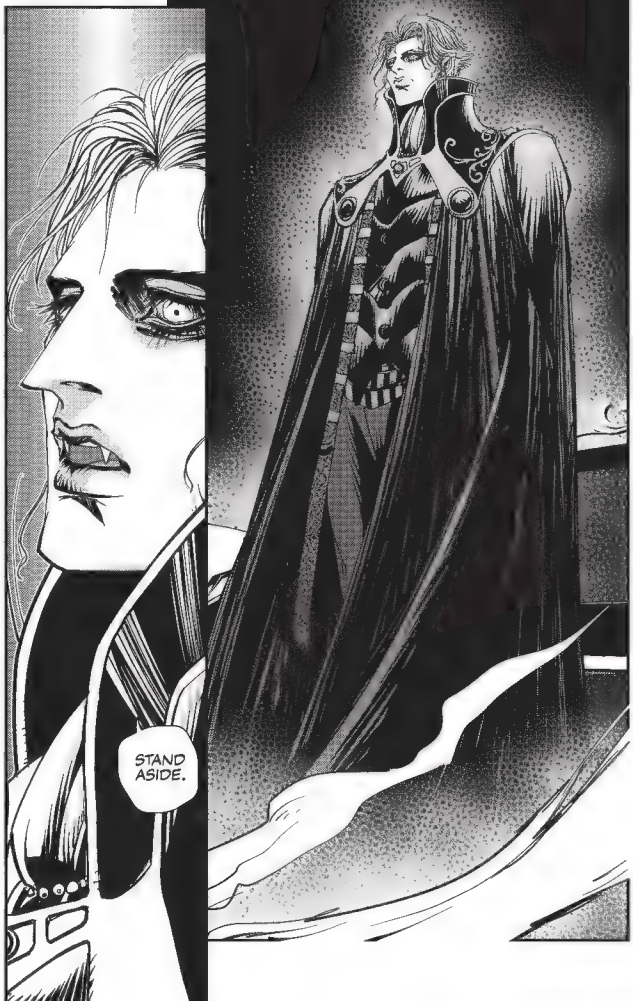
BET THAT ONE RATTLED YOUR BONES! NOW SCRAM!
THAT'S RIGHT!
INSTEAD, YOU WASTED MY GODDAMN TIME ACTING TOUGH!
YOU SHOULD'VE DONE WHAT I SAID TO BEGIN WITH!

BRRROM
ガルオォ!!
ガルオォ
ガルオォ
BRRROM
ガ ガ ガ

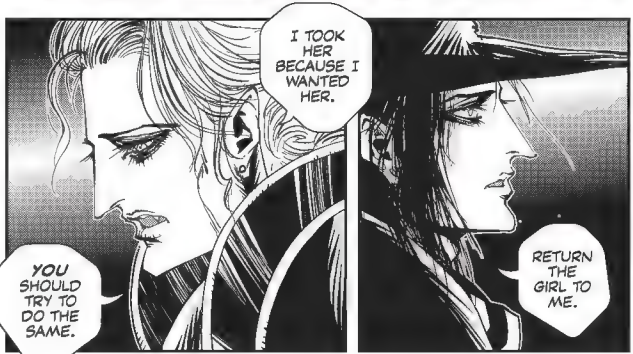
WHAP
SHMP
WHAM
SCRAPING
SLAM
ヒュ!
HYNN!
ヒュ!
HYNN!
ヒュ!
HYNN!

HYNN
ヒュン!!
SHAP!
HYNN
ヒュン!
WHAM
VRRRR
WHAM
WHAM
VRRRR
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM


CHARGE
HMM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
CLAK
CLAK
KLAK
DADADADA


STAND ASIDE.

YOU MAY BE SCUM WHO HUNT PEOPLE DOWN FOR A LIVING,
BUT I'VE NO WISH TO POINT-LESSLY SHED BLOOD.
BRRRR


I TOOK HER BECAUSE I WANTED HER.
YOU SHOULD TRY TO DO THE SAME.
RETURN THE GIRL TO ME.

THAT IS, IF YOU CAN HANDLE FIGHTING A NOBLE AT NIGHT!
MAYERLING!

CHINK!

SHOMMM
I'VE HEARD OF YOU, TOO.
I BELIEVE HIS NAME'S MAYERLING.
...ONLY ONE YOUNG LORD IS PRAISED BY HIS SUBJECTS FOR HIS VIRTUE.
THEY SAY, OF ALL THE NOBILITY...
SO, YOU'RE D—
YOUR FACE, YOUR SKILL—
ANY NOBLE WOULD PALE AT THE MENTION OF YOUR NAME.
I'VE HEARD OF YOU BEFORE.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU,
ONE WAY OR ANO-THER.
AND NOW, YOU HAVE.
I'VE DONE NOTHING TO THE HUMANS.
WHY NOT JUST LET US GO ON OUR WAY?
TELL THAT TO THE FATHER...
...WHOM YOU'VE TURNED INTO ONE LIKE YOURSELF, BEFORE YOU TOOK HIS DAUGHTER.
DM
DM
DM

AH!
TA!
CHING
HSSMA
TMP
CLATA
CLATA
DM DM
DM

HEARD A STRANGE VOICE, DID YOU?
NOW WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?

YOU DO REALIZE...
...SHE'S THE COMPETITION, DON'T YOU?
I CAN'T JUST IGNORE HER.
—OR FOR SOMETHING ELSE?
JOY? JOY FOR BEING HUMAN AGAIN?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO SUGGEST?
...WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
SERIOUSLY, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND OR SOMETHING?
SHUT UP.
SHE'LL JUMP FOR JOY AT THAT.
EVEN IF HE'S SUCKED HER BLOOD, IF YOU KILL THE NOBLE, SHE'LL RETURN TO NORMAL.
SO, WHAT ABOUT THE GIRL THE NOBLE KIDNAPPED?
WHAT ARE YOU, DELIRIOUS ...?
WE COULD'VE BEEN WRAPPING UP THIS JOB RIGHT ABOUT NOW...

LEAVE ME ALONE.
HUMMPH ...!
I'LL SEE TO IT THAT IT DOESN'T HURT.
—CAUT-ERIZING YOUR WOUND.
...HELP.
I DON'T NEED YOUR...
IT HURTS.
HOH HOH... THIS GIRL'S A TOUGH COOKIE.
STOP IT.
IT HURTS.

I'M COLD...
PLEASE.
STOP IT... BIG BROTHER.
SOME-BODY...
COLD...
..
PLEASE.
WHO...?

WHO ARE YOU...?
...SO WARM...
...MOM...
SMM!

DM-DM-DM
CLATTA CLATTA
DM DM DM...
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?

NO.
DOES THAT SEEM IMPOS-SIBLE TO YOU?
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO MAKE IT THERE?
...AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU.
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHERE I AM...
CLATA-CLATA

WHO THE HELL DID THIS TO LEILA?!
SON OF A BITCH!
THE NOBLE?! THAT OTHER GUY?!
YOU GUYS NEED TO CALM DOWN A NOTCH.
WHO SENT LEILA OFF ON HER OWN WITHOUT TELLING ME?
SORRY ABOUT THAT, BRO.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH ONE IT WAS...
WHOEVER TREATED HER PROBABLY DIDN'T ATTACK HER...
BUT I CAN'T SEE THAT BEING EITHER OF 'EM.
I'LL FIND 'EM BOTH, AND TEAR 'EM TO PIECES!

じっ
STARE
LET'S SEE..
I CAN FIND D, NOW THAT I'VE HAD A LOOK AT HIS FACE...
HUFF
モヤ
SHIMMER

SHIFT
THAT'S... THE IMAGE OF D IN BORGOFF'S MEMORY...
I GUESS HE MANAGED TO PROJECT IT...
SHIMMER
SHINE
HONN

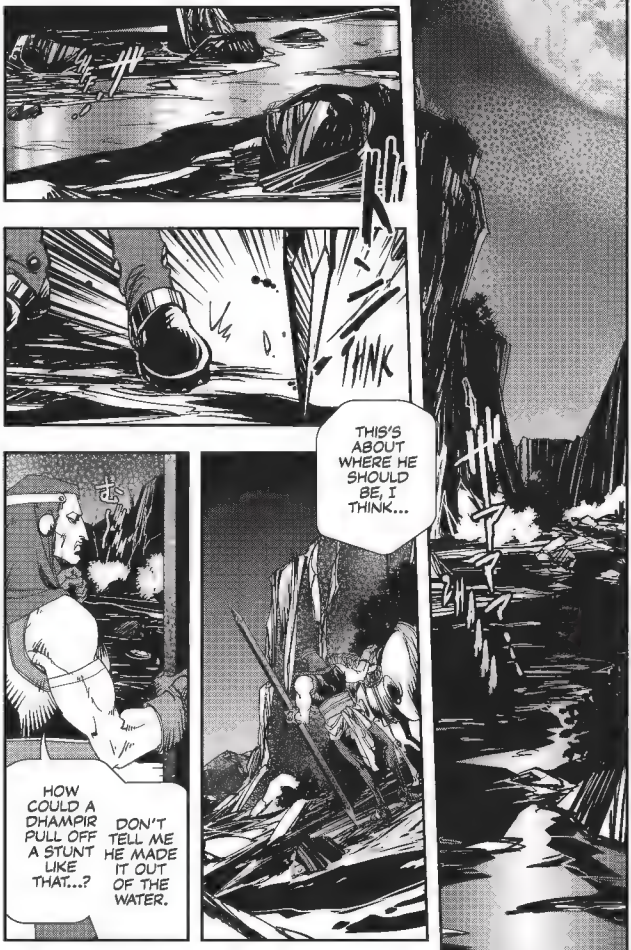
KA
KA
KA
KADOW!
KADOW!
SHOOM
KA
KA
...LOOKS LIKE HE'S FOUND HIM.
I WONDER HOW HE PLANS TO KILL THE GUY OFF.
DM
DM
DM
K
K
K
SSSSSH
SSSSSH

ゴゴゴ
HOOO

BROOOSH
?!
DMDMDM
HMM
TINK
PLASSSH
YOU GOT 'EM!

THAT MUST'VE TAKEN ABOUT THREE YEARS OFF YOUR LIFE, HUH?
BRO?
HE FELL INTO THE RIVER.
SO I DOUBT HE CAN SWIM.
HE'S A DHAMPIR,
SHEFT
KYLE.
IT'S YOUR TURN TO DRIVE.
FIND HIM AND FINISH HIM OFF, NOLT...

OH GEEZ, YOU'RE AWAKE?
SORRY IF ALL THE COMMOTION WOKE YOU UP.
I'M SORRY, BRO...
SORRY THAT I CAN'T HELP AT ALL...
DON'T GO SAYIN' THAT SHIT.
YOU JUST KEEP QUIET AND REST...
...GROVECK.
YOU WON'T HAVE ANY MORE SEIZURES FOR A WHILE, WILL YOU?
SMILE
HM?
I'LL BE OKAY...
—FEELS LIKE I CAN MANAGE TO KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL.


THINK
THIS'S ABOUT WHERE HE SHOULD BE, I THINK...
HOW COULD A DHAMPIR PULL OFF A STUNT LIKE THAT...?
DON'T TELL ME HE MADE IT OUT OF THE WATER.

VNN!
NICE OF YOU TO DROP BY.
SHF
WHOOK
BAS- TARD!
DNEI
WHOOO

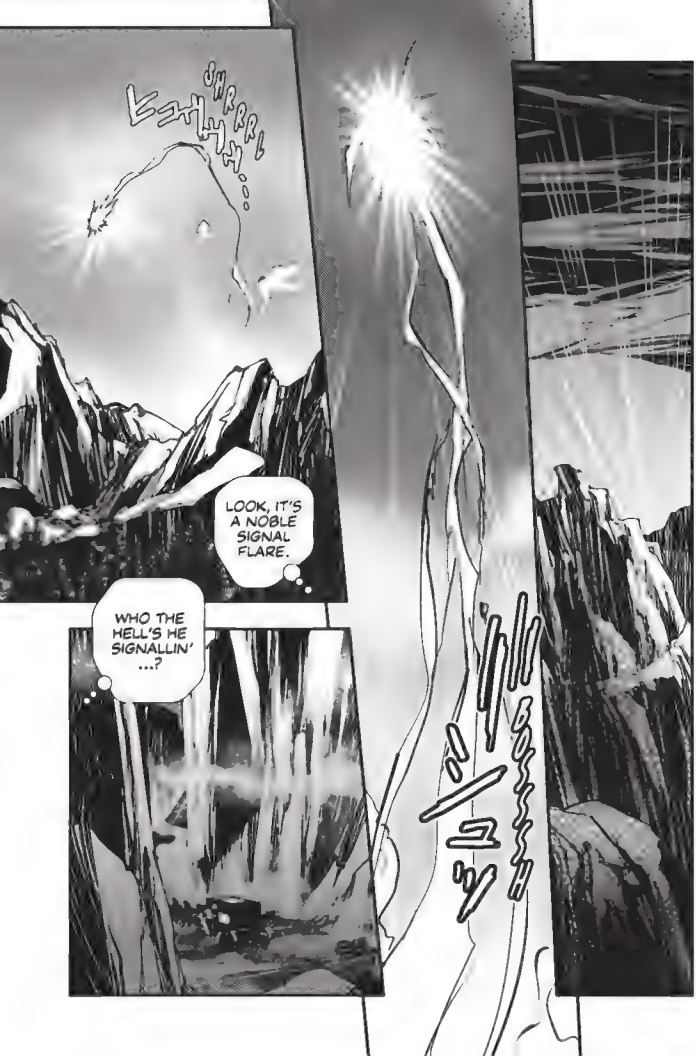
SWIP
SWIP
SWIP

WHOOMM
GET A LOAD A' THIS, THEN!
DAMMIT!
WHOOK!
DSSSH

I'VE TANGLED WITH YOUR KIND BEFORE,
AND I USED THIS TRICK THEN, TOO.
HOW 'BOUT IT, DAMPHIR?
SPLISH
WHEN DHAMPIRS GET WET...
THE WET PARTS STIFFEN UP SOMETHIN' TERRIBLE, DON'T THEY?
WOHH
NOW DIE!
VVN!

?!
TINK
I AM AN ORDINARY DHAMPIR.
--YOU... YOU'RE NO ORDINARY DHAMPIR, ARE YA...?

PLACH


LOOK, IT'S A NOBLE SIGNAL FLARE.
WHO THE HELL'S HE SIGNALLIN' ...?

THP
THP
THP
THP
S.H.R.R.R.A

CLOTH ?!
FWOO
SHEE
TRACKED DOWN A NOBLE THIS FAR I SEE... I CAME HERE TO SEE YOU HUNTERS IN ACTION, BUT I SEE I'M NOT MISSING MUCH.
BENGÉ'S TRICKS HAVE YOU AT YOUR WIT'S END... I WOULDN'T EVEN BREAK A SWEAT, DEALING WITH YOU.
A WOMAN ?!

THE NOBLE'S AT OUR VILLAGE.
HE'S COME TO ENLIST SOME OUTSTANDING GUARDS TO KEEP MAGGOTS...
...LIKE YOU FROM FOLLOWING HIM.
HMHM... WHY DON'T YOU CONSIDER HIRING ONE OF US TOO?
THIS BITCH TALKS TOO MUCH.
THOK!
AGHH!
YEERK!!

THE VILLAGE OF THE BARBAROIS ...
THAT PLACE'S A GODDAMN DEN OF FREAKS.
YOU GOT HER, BRO!
...OUR ASSHOLE NOBLE HOLED UP SOMEWHERE WE REALLY DON'T WANT HIM TO BE...
BUT SHE GOT AWAY.
YOU SWINE....!
SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
HEHEH... I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHO'S GOT BETTER SKILLS—US OR THEM!
OH, HELL YEAH!
AND I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A CHANCE TO GO UP AGAINST THEM.
I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT BARBAROIS SORCERY...

BUT OUR PRIMARY TARGET'S THE NOBLE, AND THE TEN MILLION DALAS.
DON'T FORGET THAT.
WE'RE STILL GONNA DYE OUR HANDS RED WITH SOME-BODY'S BLOOD.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S THE BARBAROIS OR EVEN THE NOBILITY'S SACRED ANCESTOR,
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
DOOM!
ぬっ
!
.....
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?
ガシッ
YOU THINKING ABOUT THAT DHAMPIR?
LEILA... WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

.....
...DON'T YOU FORGET... LEILA.
YOU BELONG TO US... TO EACH ONE OF US...

ちゃり
ちゃり
ちゃり

I'M THE VAMPIRE HUNTER, D.
I HAVE BUSINESS HERE, AND WISH TO ENTER.
GREEEE
YOU SAW THAT, RIGHT?
YEAH.

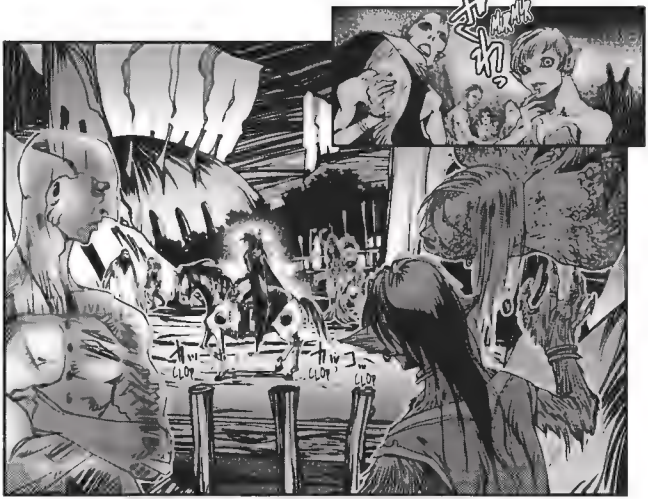
WHICH MEANS... HE TOOK OUT NOLT.
HE'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE DROWNED.
...AIN'T HE A DHAMPIR?!

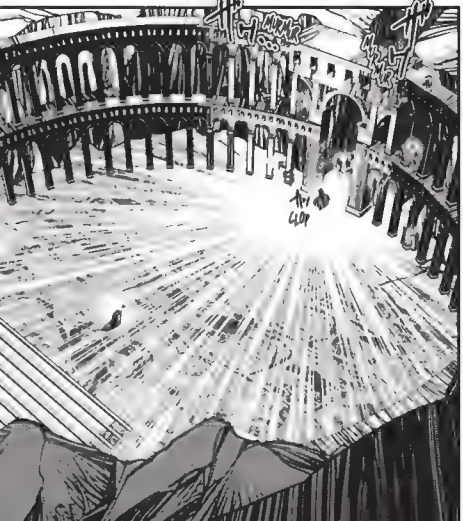
.....
WE ONLY HAVE ONE CHOICE.
RIGHT, BRO...?
INK.
NOW WE'VE GOTTA KILL HIM!
THAT SCUMBAG... I CAN'T BELIEVE HE GOT NOLT...!

GO AND GIVE GROVE A SEIZURE.
KYLE.

I DON'T WANNA DO THIS, BUT LET'S LET GROVE HANDLE THINGS THIS TIME.

GRIN
MY PLEA-SURE.


きゃっ
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP


CLOP
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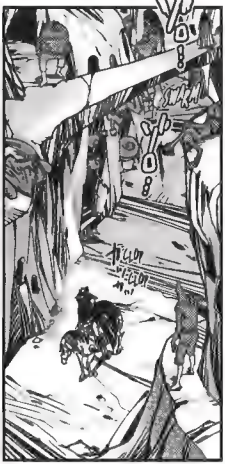
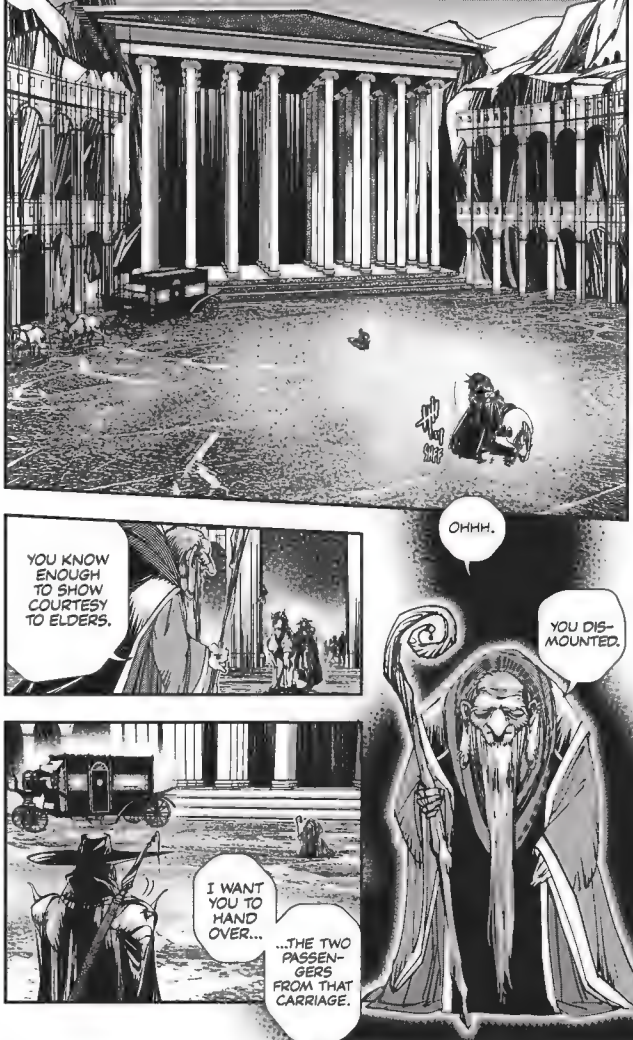

Yo!
Yo!
CLOP
CLOP


YOU KNOW ENOUGH TO SHOW COURTESY TO ELDERS.
OHHH.
YOU DIS-MOUNTED.
I WANT YOU TO HAND OVER...
...THE TWO PASSEN-GERS FROM THAT CARRIAGE.

WE WERE PAID TEN OF THE FABLED GOLD TEN THOUSAND-DALA COINS...
COULD YOU AFFORD THAT MUCH?
TOO LATE...
WE'VE ALREADY FINALIZED OUR CONTRACT, WHICH PUTS US ON THE SIDE OF THE CARRIAGE.
IF I COULD, WOULD YOU SELL OUT YOUR CLIENTS?
HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH
CERTAIN-LY...
OR THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE.
HM?
.....
.....
THIS IS THE VILLAGE OF THE BARBAROIS, YOU KNOW, AND YET YOU HAVE THE GALL TO SPEAK...
SUCH AMUSING THINGS YOU SAY!
...SINCE ANYONE SPOKE TO ME THAT WAY—
HAHN, WHAT A DELIGHT!
IT'S BEEN JUST ABOUT 320 YEARS...

I'M A VAMPIRE HUNTER.
ARE YOU... BY ANY CHANCE ...?
THAT FACE OF YOURS ...
THE FACT THAT I'M HERE IS SIMPLY A RESULT OF THAT.
THE FATHER OF A KIDNAPPED DAUGHTER ASKED ME TO PURSUE HER ABDUCTOR.
YOU'RE PROVING YOURSELF TO BE A JUST MAN.
NO, IT COULDN'T BE...
HOHHH.
ONCE YOUR CLIENTS LEAVE THIS PLACE, I WANT YOU TO STAND ASIDE AND LET ME PURSUE THEM.
I DO, HOWEVER, UNDER-STAND YOUR VILLAGE'S POSITION.

I'LL TELL YOU OF HIS REQUESTS.
IN DEFERENCE TO THAT FACT,
HE WANTS US TO GUARD HIM FROM YOU, AND ANY OTHER HUNTERS.
IN PARTICULAR, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO KILL A YOUNG MAN NAMED D, AS HE'S SURE TO SHOW UP HERE.
CHUNG!

KILL ME IF YOU LIKE, BUT I'LL TAKE DOWN SEVERAL VILLAGERS TOO.
WHY NOT JUST LEAVE ME BE UNTIL NIGHTFALL?
I'LL ASK NOTHING FURTHER, NOW THAT YOU'VE ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT TO ABET HIS ESCAPE.

...I SUSPECTED AS MUCH...
YOUR POWER, YOUR SKILL— YES.
I CANNOT DEFY YOU, LEST ALL WHO LIVE IN THIS VILLAGE DIE, DROWNED IN A LAKE OF BLOOD.
PLEASE, ACCEPT THE SHRIVELED HEAD OF THIS OLD FOOL AS COMPENSATION FOR OUR RUDENESS.
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?!

IF ANYONE COMES HERE SEEKING OUR HELP,
AND WE ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THEM...
...WE MUST PROTECT THEM— EVEN IF WE DIE TRYING.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE LAW OF OUR VILLAGE, ELDER?
...WILL BE THE ONES WHO DEAL WITH THIS.
AND BENGÉ ...
MA-SHIRA,
YES...
I, CAROLINE,
NOT ONLY THE LEGAL COLLAPSE OF THIS VILLAGE, BUT ITS DESTRUCTION AS WELL!
ELDER, BREAKING AN EXISTING CONTRACT WOULD MEAN...

THRUST
I BET THERE'RE OTHERS HERE WHO AGREE WITH US! STEP FORWARD!
WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS EVEN IF YOU TRY TO STOP US, ELDER.
GO AHEAD AND EXILE US FROM THE VILLAGE, IF YOU LIKE.
YOU FOOLS!
AHA HA HA!

LISTEN, IT ALL NEARLY FELL APART ONCE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA...
HOW MUCH YOUR ANCESTORS SUFFERED AND TOILED TO BUILD THIS VILLAGE YOU LIVE IN, AFTER THEY WERE CHASED FROM THEIR HOMES...
THAT DAY—THE FIRST DAY OF OUR 10,000 YEAR HISTORY—A HORRIBLE TOXIC GAS GUSHED OUT OF THE GROUND AND ONTO OUR LAND.
...FOR HAVING CARNAL RELATIONS WITH DEMONS?
HALF THE VILLAGERS DIED... NEARLY ALL THE REST WERE ROTTING AWAY AND WAITING FOR DEATH...
THAT WAS WHEN HE APPEARED.
HE HAD HEARD ABOUT US, AND RUSHED HERE WITHOUT HESITATION... THESE WERE HIS WORDS:
HE HAD EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY WITH A CERTAIN GRAND PURPOSE IN MIND.

LET THE FIVE STRONGEST, MOST STALWART MEN OF THIS VILLAGE ACCOMPANY ME ON MY JOURNEY.
IF THEY DO, I SHALL IMMEDIATELY CHANGE THE CALAMITY THAT'S BEFALLEN THE VILLAGE INTO THE PROSPERITY FOR WHICH YOU LONG.
THIS SQUARE, NO, THIS ENTIRE VILLAGE WAS FILLED WITH THE MOANS OF THE ROTTING, THE DYING.
BUT THE MOMENT HIS APPEAL REACHED THEIR EARS, THEY FORGOT THEIR ANGUISHED STRUGGLES.
THEN, AS IF DRAWN BY SOME FORCE, A NUMBER OF US GATHERED TO HIS SIDE. THAT NUMBER WAS FIVE.

THIS IS A LAW YOU YOUNG ONES KNOW NOT!
IF THAT HONORED MAN HIMSELF, OR A MEMBER OF HIS BLOODLINE SHOULD APPEAR, ALL SUBSEQUENTLY ESTABLISHED LAWS OF THIS VILLAGE SHALL BE ALLEVIATED IN ORDER TO FULFILL HIS REQUESTS!
WITHIN THE SPACE OF THREE BREATHS, THE TREES BURST INTO LEAF AND THE FLOWERS BORE FRUIT.
AND BEHOLD, THE LAND BENEATH THE VILLAGE ROSE QUICKLY INTO THE SKY, UNTIL IT REACHED THIS PLACE WHERE IT NOW STANDS.
THE MAN DEPARTED, TAKING THE FIVE ALONG WITH HIM,
THUS WAS THE VILLAGE OF THE BARBAROIS RESTORED!
LATER WE LEARNED THAT THE TOXIC GAS HAD BEEN DISSIPATED ENOUGH TO A HARMLESS LEVEL.
THEN, WE INTONED HIS NAME EARNESTLY AS WE PLACED OUR BROWS AGAINST THE EARTH.
--HEAR THIS!

LONG HAVE WE AWAITED YOU, MILORD.
WE SHALL SEE TO IT THAT ALL YOUR REQUESTS ARE FULFILLED.
HUHA-HAHAHA! WHAT AN HONEST FELLOW!
WHA?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
LET THE CARRIAGE GO, AND LET THOSE THREE GUARD IT, AS THEY WISH.
THANKS, BUT YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON.
SHOULD YOU WISH THAT CARRIAGE DESTROYED AND BURNED TO THE GROUND, JUST ASK IT OF US...
WE THREE SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO HANDLE.
SINCE YOUR INTENTIONS SEEM UPRIGHT AND JUST, WE WON'T LET THE OTHERS INTER-FERE.

THE CARRIAGE'S DESTINATION IS THE CLAY-BOURNE STATES!
ヒュイ!!
HERE'S A PRESENT, BEFORE YOU DIE.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING ?!
I SAID NOT TO INTER-
?!
SMILE
YOU'RE NOT FROM THIS VILLAGE!
SHOOM...

WOOOOOOH!!
HUH?!
WOOOOOOH!!
SHREEEEE

うわぁぁ
WHAT?!
AGH!
SHEEEE
SHEEEE
SHEEEE

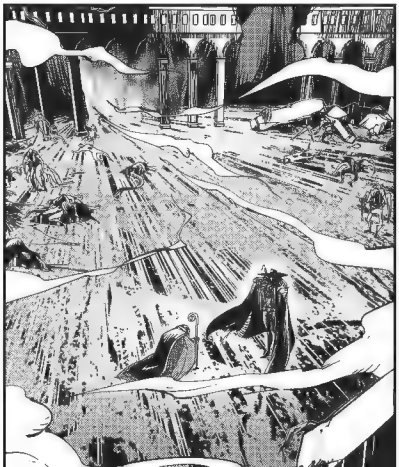
SHHHHH

KA-BOOM
GRRRRR...
PUFF!
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP

WHORRRR!

!
WHERE'D THOSE THREE GO...?
YES, MILORD. THERE'S A SECRET PATH KNOWN ONLY TO THE VILLAGERS...

MILORD D, ARE YOU INJURED ?!
CAN I GET DOWN THE MOUNTAIN FROM THE REAR?



TCH!
あぁぁぁぁ
AHHH
うぉぉぉぉぉ
AUGHHHHHH
あぁぁぁぁ
AUUU

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU TODAY, BUT YOU PUT UP ONE HELL OF A FIGHT...
HEH!
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST PLAYED NICE AND DONE...
...WHAT I TOLD YOU, LIKE USUAL.
QUIT IT!
HIS SPONTANEOUS SEIZURES'RE BECOMING MORE FREQUENT THESE DAYS.
HEHEH ...OF COURSE ...
...THAT PROBABLY MADE IT ALL THE EASIER TO GET HIM WORKED UP.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF WE KEEP FORCING THESE ADDITIONAL ONES...
PSHAW! AS IF WE CAN PREDICT THE FUTURE.
HEY, BRO.
IT'S ME— KYLE.

HOW'D IT GO?
TELL ME WHAT YOU SAW OUT THERE.
HA-LASH!!
YOU WANT TO KNOW, KYLE...? YOU WANT TO KNOW?
...YOU HAVING LEILA ALL TO YOURSELF ...
AND PUTTING ME THOUGH HELL ALL ALONE...
AND YOU WANT TO KNOW ?
SQUEEZE
YEAH. I WANNA KNOW...
OUR PREY'S HEADING FOR THE CLAYBOURNE STATES.
KOFF

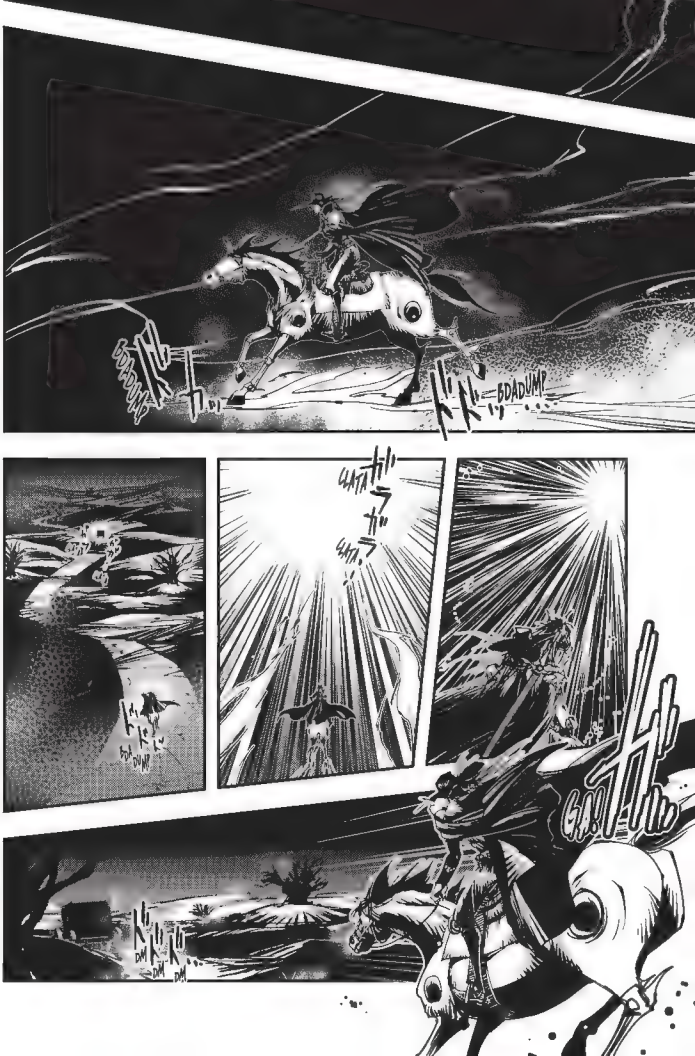
DM DM DM DM
DM DM DM
CLOP
BARON MAYER-LING.
GREETINGS. I'M MASHIRA.
I AM CAROLINE.
WE HAVE BEEN AWAITING FOR YOUR APPEAR-ANCE.
YOU'RE ONE SHORT.

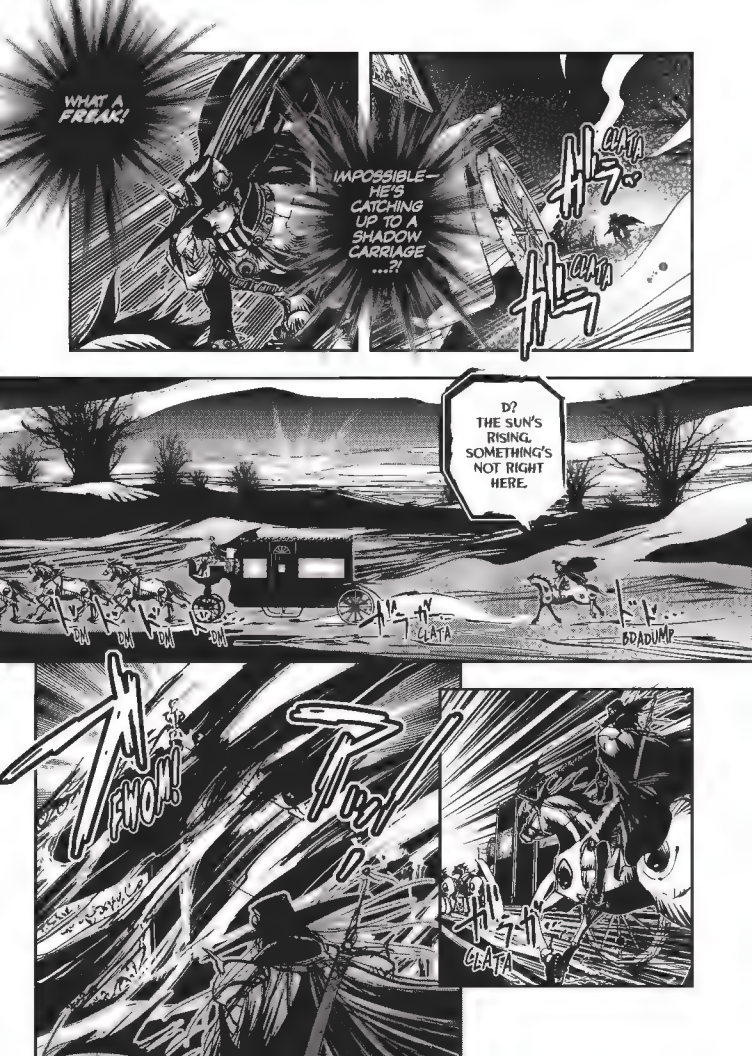
IN TIME, YOU'LL SEE WHAT WE'RE CAPABLE OF—MAYBE EVEN BY TOMORROW.
IMPEDING IS A SPECIALTY OF HIS...
YOU SEEM CONCERNED, SIR.
DETAINING THE ENEMY? BY HIMSELF?
HE WILL MEET UP WITH US LATER.
BENGE. HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE KEEPING THE ENEMY BUSY.
YES, SIR.
THERE IS A PACK OF HOUNDS CHASING US, BESIDES THE ONE.
HUNTERS OTHER THAN HIM AREN'T MUCH OF A THREAT.
ON A DIFFERENT NOTE, MIGHT WE...
...BE INTRODUCED TO THE LADY RIDING WITHIN?
MOST LIKELY.
NO, HOLD ON.
IS THE YOUNG MAN WHO RAN AMUCK IN YOUR VILLAGE ONE OF THEM?

SHIMMER
LET THEM SEE YOU.
INDEED.
SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN, IT WOULD PROVE SOMEWHAT INCONVENIENT IF WE'RE UNABLE TO RECOGNIZE HER.
.....

THANK YOU.
HOW BEAU-TIFUL.
OHH!
OUR DESTINATION'S NEAR. WE SHOULD ARRIVE BY EVENING TWO DAYS FROM NOW.
I'LL BE ASLEEP IN THE FOREST DURING THE DAY.
I'M GOING ON AHEAD. FOLLOW BEHIND.
DM DM DM DM
THAT SHOULD BE A FITTING TIME FOR OUR DEPARTURE...

WE JUST HAVE TO FULFILL THE CONTRACT.
WHAT CAN YOU DO? HE'S OUR EMPLOYER.
ヤレヤレ
CHEESH
WHERE DOES HE GET OFF ORDERING THE MIGHTY MASHIRA AROUND—ESPECIALLY ONE SUCH AS HIMSELF DOOMED TO EXTINCTION? EVERYONE IN OUR VILLAGE KNOWS MY ABILITIES.
SO, LISTEN.
I HAVE AN IDEA TO RUN PAST YOU.
ENOUGH!
?
ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH THAT GUY?
GRIN
WHAT'RE YOU—?
I CAN SEE WHY YOU'D BE ATTRACTED TO HIM.
HE'S THE REAL THING, AND YOU'RE A FAKE.
NO NEED TO HIDE IT.


BDADUMP
CLATT
CLATT
GAH!


WHAT A FREAK!
IMPOSSIBLE— HE'S CATCHING UP TO A SHADOW CARRIAGE ...?!
CLATA
CLATA
D? THE SUN'S RISING. SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE.
DH
DH
DH
DH
CLATA
BDADUMP
FWOW!
CLATA

FLING!
?!
FWOOSH

WELL, WHAT A SURPRISE.
YOU REALLY ARE ONE SCARY PIECE OF WORK.
SHIFF
SHIFF
SLASH
SLASH
THRUST
HMHMHM ...IT'S NO USE.
I'M HERE TOO.
AS LONG AS THE OTHER YOU IS HERE...

SLASH
SLASH
SHHM
HYNN
YOU SAID SO LONG AS I'M HERE, YOU'RE HERE TOO?
SHMM
GUH!
CHOK
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU CAN'T ENTER THE SHADOWS IF YOU DON'T EXTRACT THE NEEDLE.

SHH
...YOU CREEP.
LOOM
SWOSH

!
THINK
THINK
!!
ぎゃあああ
ARGHHHH!
SHUNK!
SHIT!
THINK

THUD
GIFF
HOH-HOH.
WE FELL RIGHT INTO AN ENEMY TRAP.
HURRY.
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS TOOK US WAY OUT OF OUR WAY.
BOLT

THAT'S ...
HOOO.... VRRRN
HN?
IF BENGÉ'S NOT SHOWING UP FOR THE RENDEZ-VOUS...
...THAT MEANS HE'S DEAD.
A BLONDE IN A BLUE DRESS— MIGHT BE THAT CAROLINE CHARACTER GROVE MENTIONED.
WHAT'S UP?
I JUST SAW A WOMAN...
BESIDES, IF WE BOTH WANDER OFF, SOMETHIN' MIGHT HAPPEN TO GROVE WHILE WE'RE GONE.
—AND SHE MIGHT NOT BE ALONE OUT THERE.
NO SWEAT, IT'S JUST SOME WHORE.
HOLD ON, I'LL GO TOO.
I'LL GO SCOPE THINGS OUT.

I WISH LEILA WOULDN'T JUST GO OFF WHEREVER THE HELL SHE FEELS LIKE...
THAT'S TRUE.
BE CARE-FUL.
AH, I GOT THIS IN THE BAG.
!
HHHHH...

?!
BITCH!
SHO!
YOU'RE...
GRIN

HOW'D IT GO?
SHE AIN'T HERE.
LOOKS LIKE SHE GOT AWAY, BUT WE CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.
OKAY.
COME ON, GET IN.
YEAH.
THWOCK
THINK
THINK
THINK

IT'S KINDA OBVIOUS WHEN THE SUN'S NOT SO BRIGHT, YET YOU STILL SHADE YOUR EYES.
GRAAAAA
YOU WENT AND GOT TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE.
I DON'T WANNA KILL MY OWN BROTHER, BUT...
BUT NOW, AT LEAST I KNOW WHAT SHE REALLY IS.
REST IN PEACE. I'LL AVENGE YOU.
THNK

AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU CAME OUTSIDE AFTER ALL?
SEE NOW?
...IT'S SO PRETTY.

?!
AHH!

HI
AUGH!
?!
HYNN
I DON'T THINK SO.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! RELEASE ME!
FWIP
FWIP
SO NOW THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO OBEY THE LAWS OF OUR VILLAGE.
WE'VE GONE AGAINST OUR ELDER,
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?! LET ME GO!
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL—!
HEHEH... SHE'S GOT HER EYE SET ON THE NOBLE.
FORGET ABOUT THAT MAYERLING.
CAROLINE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE HUNTERS.
I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU...
IF YOU KEEP QUIET AND OBEY, YOU WON'T GET HURT.
YOU'RE GONNA BE MINE.

NOW.
LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER ...
NOBODY'S GONNA HEAR YOU SCREAM IN THIS FOREST.
YOU'LL DO WHAT?
EEEEEK!
DOSH!
SHF
WHO THE HELL'RE YOU, GIRL?
EH?!
ZHF
ZHF
TUMP

GRAB
SO YOU...
DON'T PLAY DUMB.
THAT'S A NOBLE'S CARRIAGE.
WELL...
NO BITE MARKS...
WHICH MEANS, YOU'RE WITH A NOBLE BY CHOICE.
GODDAMN TRAITOR!
WHAP!
BUT FIRST, I'LL HAVE SOME FUN WITH YOU.
HEHEH... TRAITORS DESERVE TO DIE.

LOOM
?!
BAS-
TARD
!!
EEK!
AND HERE, I'D GOTTEN USED TO THIS BODY...
I'LL SWAP IT WITH YOURS THEN.

AUGHH HHH!
SWORD
THUD!
HEH HEH HEH...
—TRANS- FER COMPLETE.

HEHEH — IT'S NO USE RUNNING.
I ONLY GAVE YOU A LITTLE BIT OF ME...
HMHMHM...
BUT IT SHOULD BE READY SOON ENOUGH.
MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY A GAME OF HIDE-AND-SEEK, UNTIL THEN.

AN ANCIENT BATTLEFIELD.
THE REMAINS OF ELABORATE HUMANOID ROBOTS LAY REST HERE-
GULP
GULP
GULP

HERE HE COMES.
...D... NOW THERE'S A MAN TO BE FEARED.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ANY HUMAN'S HORSE.
NOW, LISTEN TO ME.
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE GOING TO DO AS I SAY.

DUUUU...SH
ナイトゲーム...
ドバドバ...
SPLASH!
ガバッ
SWITCH
CHMP

AND YOU WILL NOT PASS.
I'M CAROLINE OF THE BARBAROIS ...
...
WHOM!
SHOOOSH
DOADUM!

SHOOSH
HOH HOH HOH! WHAT'S THE MATTER, HUNTER?
NOW THAT I'VE SUCKED THE FUEL FROM THIS ARM...
ITS BLOOD— IT'S ONE OF MY KIND TOO.
AT YOUR WIT'S END?
DSSSH
JSSSH
ROARRR
ROARRR

WROMMM
HOH HOH HOH HOH HOH!
YOU'RE TRAPPED NOW, HUNTER!
TIME TO FLATTEN YOU!
IS THAT SWORD ON YOUR BACK JUST FOR SHOW?
?!

NOW WE'RE ON EVEN GROUND.
TNK!
SHIFT!
WAIT— JUST WAIT!
H-HE'S GOING TO...

?!
BDADUMP
BDADUMP
LEAP
OH, NO YOU DON'T, HUNTER!

HYNN
BADUMP
WHOM...MM...
AUGHHH!
SHRRRL

boom
BEEP BEEP BEEP

IT'S THE SUNLIGHT SYNDROME, ISN'T IT?!
SHFF
SHF
WHAT'S WRONG, D?!
I SWEAR... I CAN'T PREDICT IT— NOT WHEN YOU'RE SO MUCH TOUGHER THAN THE AVERAGE JOE.
HAHH
OF COURSE, IF YOU WERE AN ORDINARY DHAMPIR, IT'D HAPPEN REGULARLY EVERY SIX MONTHS.
BUT IN YOUR CASE— WHAT'S IT BEEN NOW, FIVE YEARS?
EH?
SHINK
SHNE

THAT'S RIGHT.
THE BEST TREATMENT FOR SUNLIGHT SYNDROME IS TO LAY DOWN IN MOTHER EARTH.
HERE'S HOPING OUR LUCK HOLDS.
SO... WE'RE ON VACATION FOR A BIT.

VROOM
VR
WHAT HAPPENED...?
BEEEEP
I HOPE HIS HEART CAN TAKE IT...
CLANG
...IT'S PRETTY BAD THIS TIME.
BEEEEP
BEEEEP

CHIRP
WSSSS
HELP ME!
PLEASE, HELP ME!

SHFF
SCOOT
HAND OVER THE GIRL.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
FOR THAT MATTER, YOU STILL HAVEN'T SEEN MY REAL FACE.
DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS BODY, EH?
WRITHE
WRITHE
FANCY RUNNIN' INTO YOU HERE.
Y-YOU WERE AT THE VILLAGE, WEREN'T YOU...?
?
ZHF
ZHF

I WAS ONE OF THE THREE NEAR THE CARRIAGE IN THE VILLAGE OF THE BARBAROIS.
POLK!
HOLD ON NOW...
I'VE BEEN JUMPING FROM BODY TO BODY FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS.
I'M MORE THAN A MATCH FOR YOUR LITTLE TRICKS.
SURPRISED, YOUNG'UN?
THIS'S THE REAL ME.
CHAK!
DON'T YOU CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE GIRL?
YOU LET LOOSE WITH ANY OF YOUR LIGHTNING, AND I FIRE MY GUN.

AIEEE!
KLAM!
KLUMP
NOW C'MERE.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TROUBLE WHEN THAT MAYERLING GUY COMES OUT.
WE HAVE TO RUN AS FAR AWAY AS WE CAN BEFORE NIGHT FALLS...

?!
SKT
LIFT
Y-
YOU'RE
...
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM

BWOOSH
THUD
NO WONDER HE'S PART OF THE MARCUS CLAN.
THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL.
WELL I'LL BE DAMNED.
I'VE SEEN WHAT HE CAN DO FIRST-HAND...
BLORP
MAN OH MAN.
BUT WHAT THE HELL'S THE REAL HIM LIKE?
OOZE

ザザザザ
ザ…
ザッシャアアア

HE'S A DHAMPIR... THE ONLY THING THAT COMES TO MIND IS... SUNLIGHT SYNDROME ?
...SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH D.
SHFF SHFF
SHFF SHFF

HE FEELS COLD.
BUT...

HE KEPT ME WARM DURING THAT.
...WHO PATCHED ME UP BEFORE, WEREN'T YOU, D?
BUT YOU WERE THE ONE...
I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER...
...
...
FORGET I SAID ANYTHING ...
I CAN'T BE WITH A HUNTER...

WILL YOU MARRY ME?
QUIT JOKING AROUND.
YOU BELONG TO US...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GET SOME FROM YOU.
STOP!
YOU AIN'T GOIN' ANY-WHERE.
GUYS, STOP IT!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
AH!!

THIS TIME, I'LL PROTECT YOU.
CHAZ
SHUFF.
—EVEN IF IT KILLS ME.
IT'S NOT EVEN EASY FOR THE NOBILITY TO ENTER OUR VILLAGE, YOU KNOW.
HOH HOH HOH, YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT A WOMAN OF THE BARBAROIS WITH A CHILD'S TOY LIKE THAT?
ZHE
ZAP

A GUN THAT FIRES NEEDLES, EH?
YOU SHOULD'VE AIMED FOR MY HEART, LITTLE GIRL.
CLAM
OHH!
SNATCH
?!
KRAK
REACH...

I SUCKED THE SAP OF ALL THE SURROUNDING TREES.
ONCE I KNEW YOU'D REACH HERE BEFORE ME,
WHA?!
SHFF
SHFF
SAP IS A TREE'S LIFE-BLOOD ...
DRAIN
THIS MEANS I NOW HAVE THOUSANDS OF MY OWN LIMBS.
ARE YOU A NOBLE?!

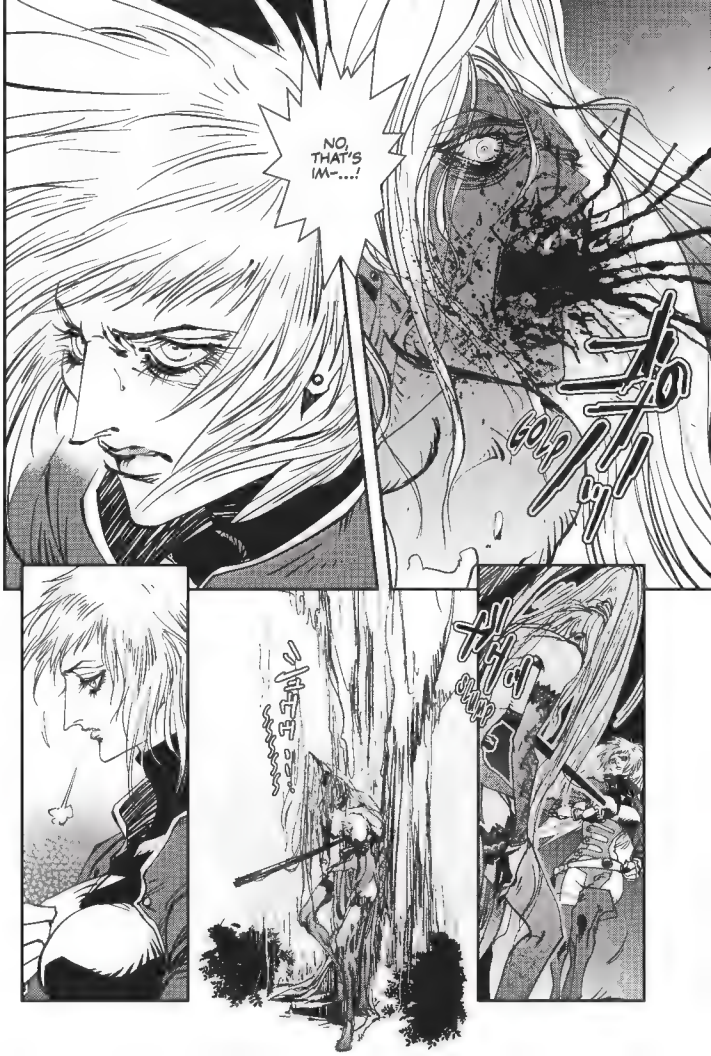
...WHO OVERSEES SECTOR SEVEN OF THE FRONTIER.
MY MOTHER WAS A WET NURSE FOR A CERTAIN NOBLE...
UNFORTUNATELY, I'M NOT OF THE NOBILITY...
BUT I DID INHERIT A FEW OF THEIR ABILITIES.
SHE'S A DHAMPIR...?!
YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH THIS DHAMPIR, AREN'T YOU?
...FROM WHAT I JUST SAW...
AH!
!
INTERESTING.
!!
I SHOULD TELL YOU, YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD WAS DELICIOUS.

OH, DON'T WORRY— I'LL GET TO YOU SOON ENOUGH.
OH!
SUCK!
HO-HOH— HOW COURAGE-OUS.
KILL ME INSTEAD ...
STOP!
AFTER THIS, THE MAYERLING WILL BE MINE!
SWSHH
SHFFT
HH

WHOMP
!
CHONK
NO!
KRRN

MASHIRA ?!
LET'S NOT HAVE YOU CALLING ME STRANGE NAMES, NOW.
MASHIRA MUST BE ONE OF YOUR PALS... IS HE THE SAME KIND AS ME?
HEH HEH HEH
SHF SHF SHF

GYAH!
THUD
SHLF
I CAN'T... PULL...
TA
GU
GU

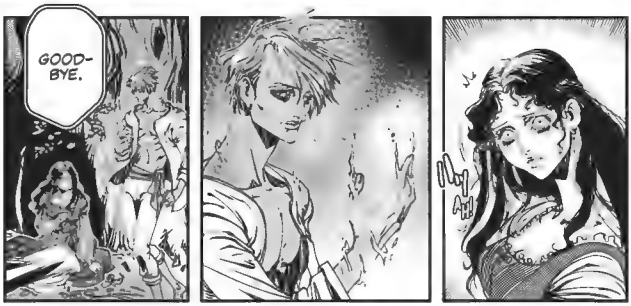

NO, THAT'S IM-...!
GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP

...D.
YOU'RE ASLEEP, AREN'T YOU?
KYAA
BUT I COULD'VE SWORN HE...
FLASH
?!

YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD WAS DELICIOUS.
NO WAY...
DID... SOMETHING HAPPEN TO GROVE?!
...I'VE GOT TO GO.
GOODBYE, D...

ヒヒヒヒ…
I'M ALRIGHT, REALLY.
ONCE IT'S DARK, HE'LL COME LOOK FOR ME...
ONCE IT'S DARK...

FLASSSH
GOOD 'OL GROVE WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF SENDING UP A SIGNAL...
VRRROM
THAT LIGHT...


GOOD-BYE.

UM...
AH!

GOOD-BYE...
THANK YOU.
GOOD-BYE.
SSSF

SHI...N
I'M SCARED.
PLEASE, SAVE ME...
SO SCARED.
CHEAA
WHO'S THERE?
--GROVE ?

SHE'S BEEN CHASING US...
A HUNTER!
ARE YOU, BY ANY CHANCE...
...THE ONE FROM THE CARRIAGE?
ZHF
ZHF
SHAKE
I'M A VAMPIRE HUNTER YOUR FATHER HIRED.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
I'M LEILA MARCUS.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU CAN GO HOME NOW.
LEAVE.
PLEASE, JUST HURRY AND GO AWAY.

I DON'T WANT EITHER OF YOU TO DO ANY SUCH THING...
THEN YOU'LL KILL EACH OTHER...
HE'LL BE COMING HERE SOON.
SAY WHAT ...?
... ...
YOU'RE STILL HUMAN, AREN'T YOU?

DID YOU?!
DON'T TELL ME YOU CHOSE TO GO WITH HIM...?
YES.
THEN I GUESS HE DIDN'T VIOLATE AND THEN MAKE OFF WITH YOU.
SO YOU DID...
WHO
.....
—WITH THE NOBLE.
YOU MUST BE IN LOVE WITH HIM.

ISN'T IT TOUGH?
HUH?!
IT CAN'T BE EASY— A LIFE ON THE RUN.
HE'S GOT NO TOMORROW, AND NO PLACE TO GO BACK TO.
NEITHER DO I.
AHA...
THAT MAKES YOU GOOD FOR EACH OTHER.
SMILE
HMHM
NEVER MIND THAT. YOU NEED TO GO.
HE WILL BE HERE SOON.

I DON'T MIND.
WE'LL WAIT HERE FOR YOUR LOVE TO ARRIVE.
LET'S TALK A LITTLE LONGER...
PANG!
AH?!
AGHHH!
THUD

GROVE?
BEEP
BEEP
ARE YOU BACK, GROVE...?
BEEP
BEEP
LOOKS LIKE...
...IT'S COME DOWN TO JUST YOU AND ME.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
THEN, THAT'LL BE THE END.
I DOUBT YOU'LL COME THROUGH IT.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
...ONLY UP FOR ONE MORE SEIZURE.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ...
I'M DEFINITELY GONNA NEED YOUR POWER.
WE'RE FINALLY COMIN' TO THE END OF THIS JOB...

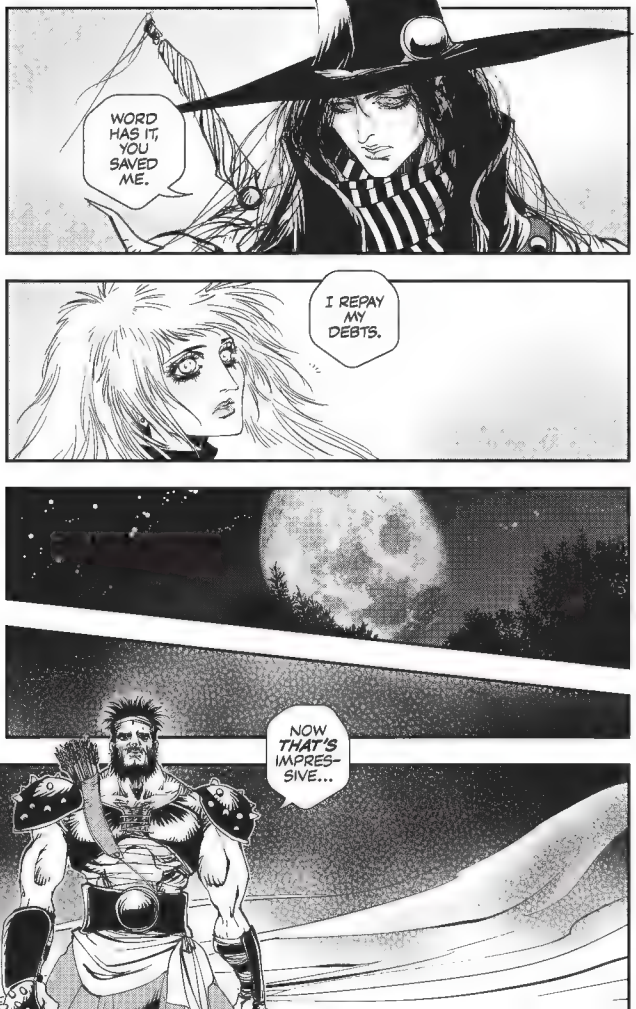
THAT'S WHY... I NEED YOU TO GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR ME.
WHEN THIS BLOWS UP, IT SHOULD TRIGGER A SEIZURE.
AND THAT'S PROBABLY THE LAST ONE YOU'LL HAVE...
SNIFF
SNIFF
REAL SORRY...
I'M SORRY, GROVE.
FARE-WELL.
I'LL BE SURE TO BE BACK.

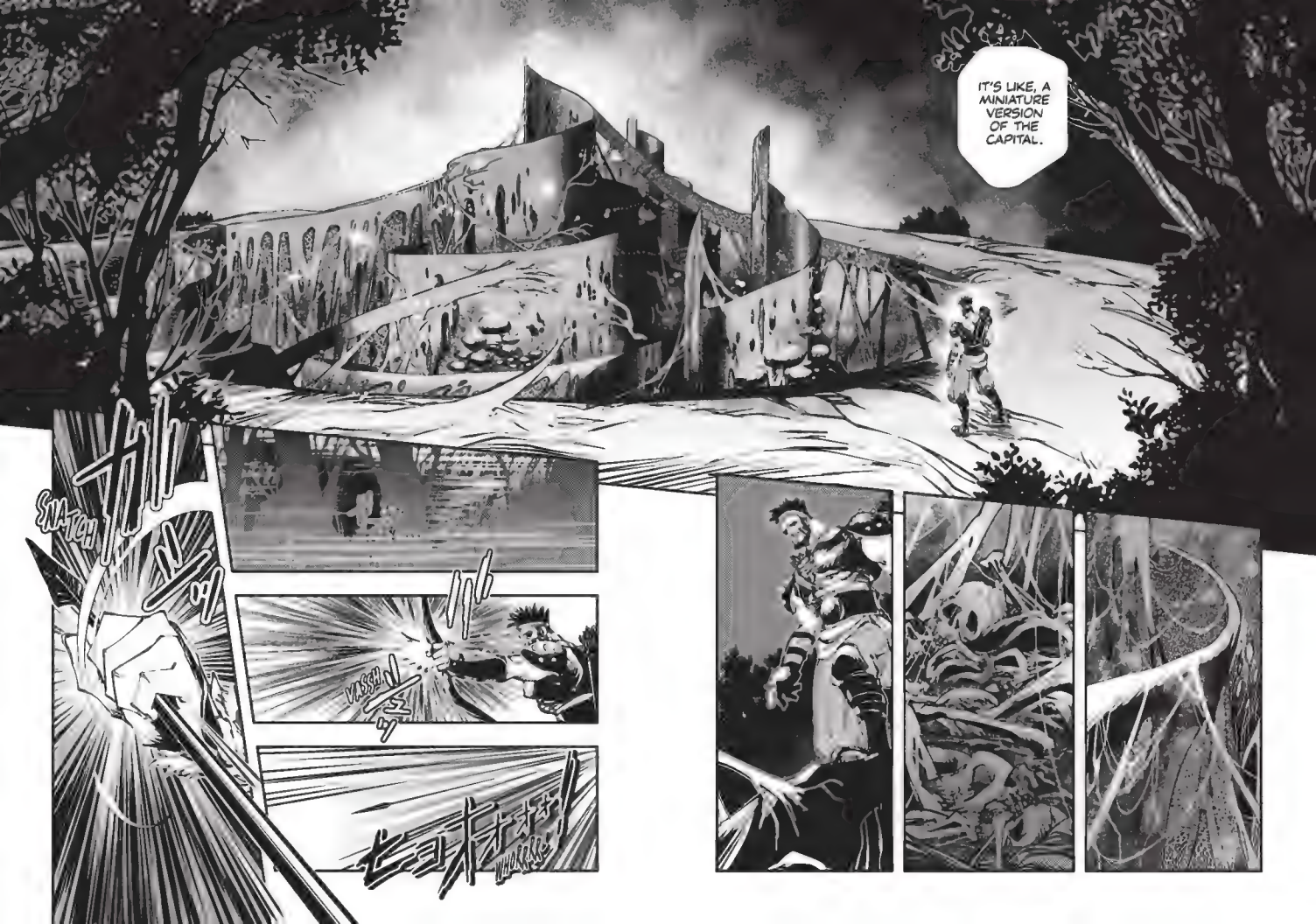
...HE MUST'VE FOUND SOME-THING.
GROVE'S SIGNAL WAS UP THIS WAY...
ZHF
ZHF
ZHF
...HNG ...
COME ON, SAY SOME-THING!
WHAT'S WRONG ?!
FLAP FLAP

D!
I THOUGHT SO.
THIS MUST BE THAT ONE GUARD, MASHIRA?
IT WON'T BE TOO LATE, IF WE ACT NOW.
THESE THINGS AND THEIR ILK ALL LOOK THE SAME.
THEY ALSO HAVE A COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS.
EACH ONE CAN SEND ITS THOUGHTS TO THE OTHERS.

WHY'D HE POSSESS THIS GIRL?
THEIR KIND ARE A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS.
LECHERY, SHEER LECHERY.
THESE THINGS HAVE AN APPRECIATION FOR BEAUTY.
AND THEY GET TO ENJOY SEX, USING THE BODIES OF THEIR HUMAN HOSTS.
CHANCES ARE, THAT'S WHAT HE HAD IN MIND FOR HER.
CHNK
CHNK
?!
AH!!
?!
AGEE!!!

THAT DID IT.
IT'LL GET ABSORBED BY HER OWN ORGANS, NOW.
D, UM...
WHAT'S WITH YOUR LEFT HAND ...?

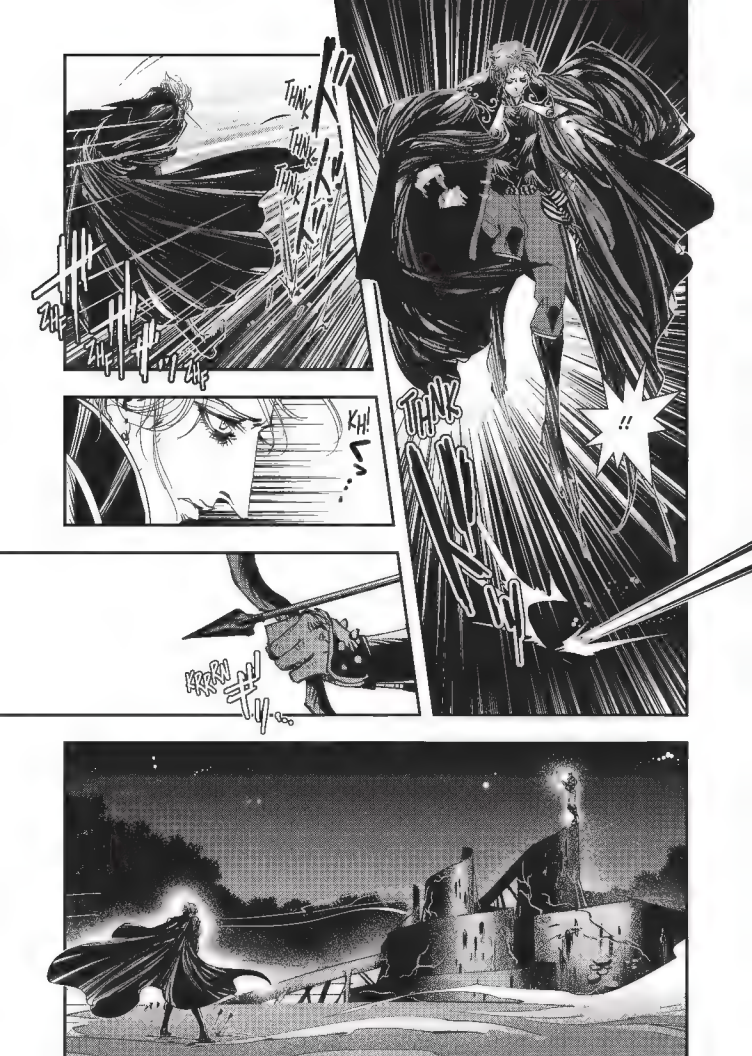

WORD HAS IT, YOU SAVED ME.
I REPAY MY DEBTS.
NOW THAT'S IMPRES-SIVE...


IT'S LIKE, A MINIATURE VERSION OF THE CAPITAL.
SNATCH
YABBH!
WHACKK!

SO, YOU'RE THE PREY.
WE MEET AT LAST.
I HAVE NO WORDS OF GREETING FOR A STRAY DOG...
...WHO HUNTS THE FLESH AND BLOOD OF PEOPLE.

IF YOU TURN TAIL AND RUN, I WON'T HARM YOU.
BUT NEITHER DO I ENJOY USELESS FIGHTING.
?!
SHWA
SHWA
REALLY NOW!
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT!
POINT
FWT
FWT
FWT
BUT THAT'S NOT HOW THIS'S GONNA HAPPEN!

SHIM
SHIM
SHIM
!
SHAAA
SPRING


THINK
THINK
THINK
ZHF
ZHF
ZHF
KH!
THINK
!!
YARRN
XT

...NO!
GRIN
SHUMP
KH...!
HAH HAH HAH!
HOW DO YOU LIKE MY CHASER ARROWS NOW?

YOU CAN'T PULL OUT THE ARROWS IF YOU CAN'T RAISE YOUR ARMS.
AND YOU CAN'T DO THAT WITH BOTH SHOULDERS PIERCED.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO RUN?
YOU CAN'T, CAN YOU?!
IF YOU MOVE, THIS ARROW OF MINE'S GOIN' RIGHT THROUGH YOUR HEART!
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU DON'T ...
...YOU'LL BE FOOD FOR THOSE MAN-EATING MINTS— THEY CAN SMELL YOUR BLOOD!

SHAFT THROUGH THE HEART, OR EATEN ALIVE BY THE MINTS?!
COME ON, NO TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT!
—WHICH'LL IT BE?
CHARGE!
VZZZZ
VZZZZ
BAHH!!
CAHH!

?!
VSSHT
SHIT!
GRAHH!

YOU'LL BE THE MINT FEAST.
I WIN THIS BATTLE, YOU STRAY DOG.
THIS BATTLE'S JUST GETTIN' STARTED!
I DON'T THINK SO.
?!
TRAP
TRAP
TRAP
WHAM

THWIZ
THWIZ
THWIZ
THWIZ
THWIZ
THWIZ
HNNNN
FWAP
SNK!
ROHHHHH!
CHAP
BLOP
TKSH
TKSH
HNNNN

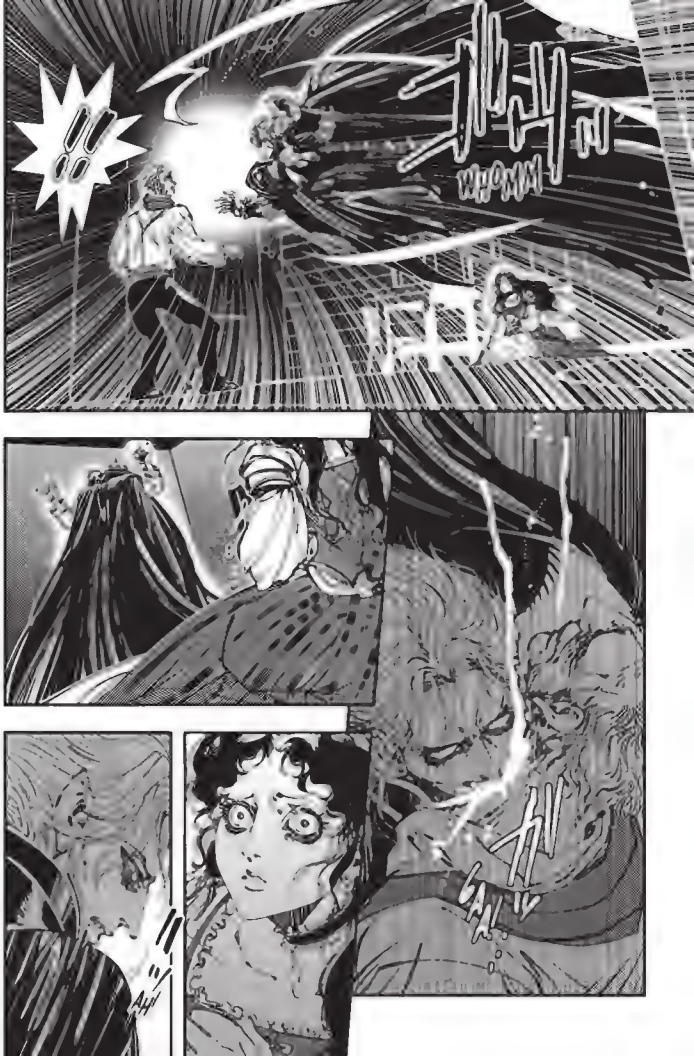
GRAHH!
WHAM!
...SON OF A BITCH!
AH SHIT!
HG ....!
AUGHHHH

HRRRL
PLAP!

シュッ

WHY DON'T WE GO AWAY SOME-WHERE— JUST THE TWO OF US?
I WOULD GO ANY-WHERE...
...IF IT'S WITH YOU.
WHACK

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING, SNEAKIN' OUT AT NIGHT?!
NOT LIKE I DON'T KNOW!
YOU WERE MEETIN' WITH A NOBLE, WEREN'T YOU?!
YOU'RE A DIS-GRACE!
HE'S NOT LIKE THAT!
NO!!
DON'T TALK BACK!
I HIRED HUNTERS!
YOU'LL NEVER SEE THAT NOBLE AGAIN!
NO...
STOP THIS!!


WHOOM
AH!

SHOOM
IT'S A NOBLE!
OH NO! THE ELDER'S BEEN...!
WAAAA!
WAAAA!
!

ハア
ハア
SUUU
ガブッ
ハアハア
うわあ
ぎゃー
うう
ガガガ
DM
DM
DM

LET ME JUST ASK YOU ONE THING...

DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH...
...ABOUT THE CLAY-BOURNE STATES...?
SO YOU DO.
THEN YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO.
BUT THEN, WHAT'LL YOU DO?
I DON'T KNOW.
OUR JOURNEY WILL END ONCE WE GET THERE...
—ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
FWSSSS

...
...
IT'S A GOOD THING...
I MEAN, IT STARTED OUT SO WELL...
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO END SO BADLY?
LOOKS LIKE HE'S HERE FOR YOU.
AH!
SHUU

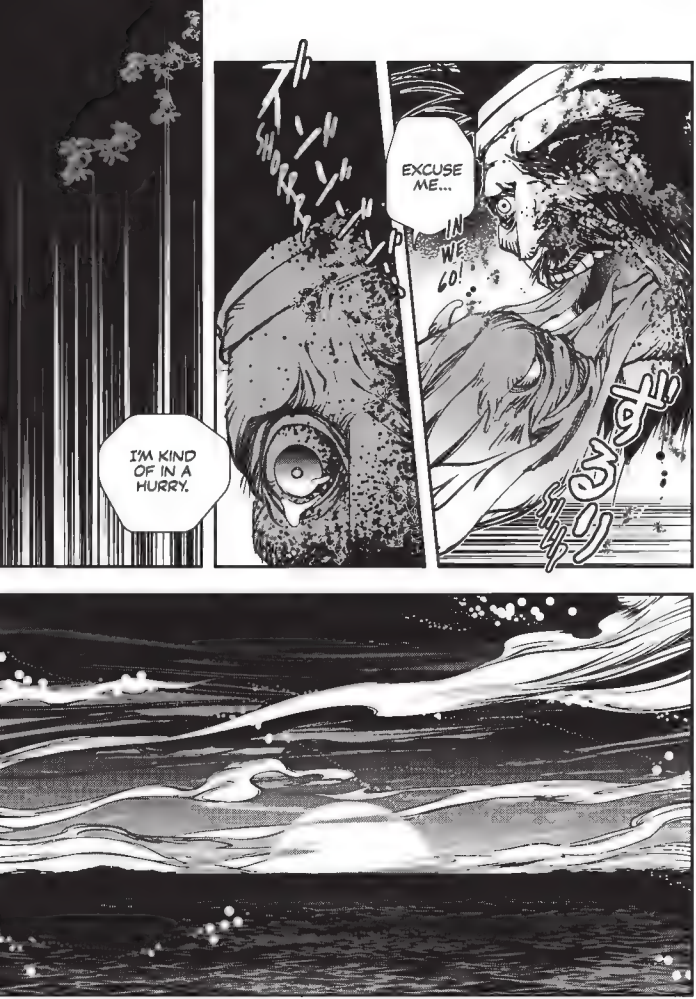
EVERY-THING WILL END THERE.
AFTER THAT—
PLEASE, JUST LET ME GO!
NO, PLEASE!
WE'LL ARRIVE AT THE CLAYBOURNE STATES TOMORROW NIGHT.
DON'T MOVE.
カリ ギィ
ZHF
LET HER GO.
YOU CAN SETTLE ALL THIS AT THE CLAYBOURNE STATES.

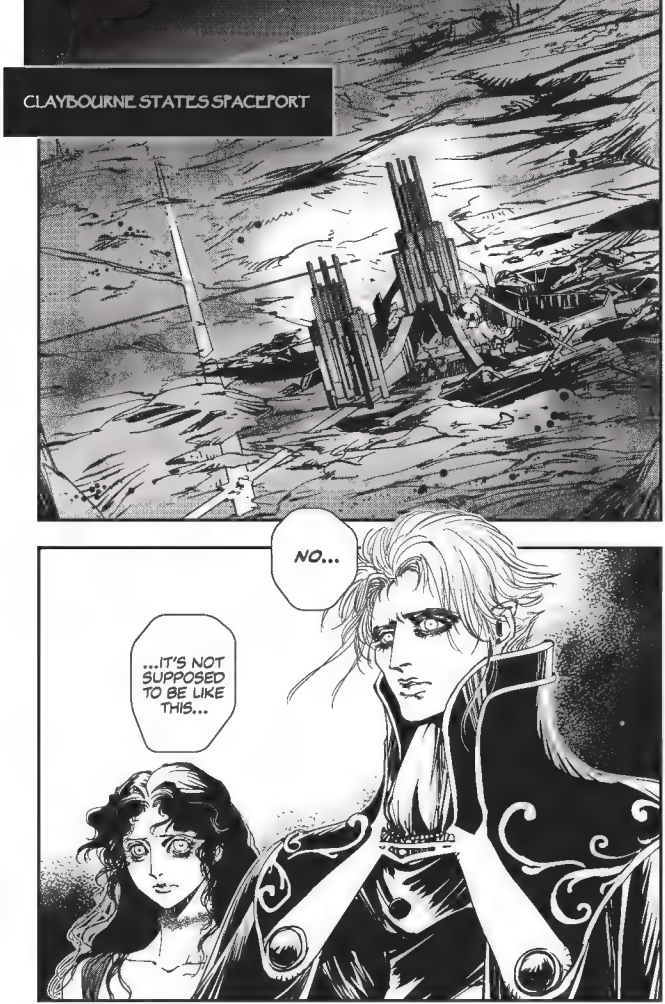
GO.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU! THANK YOU, BOTH OF YOU!
TAI
WHEW
IT'S

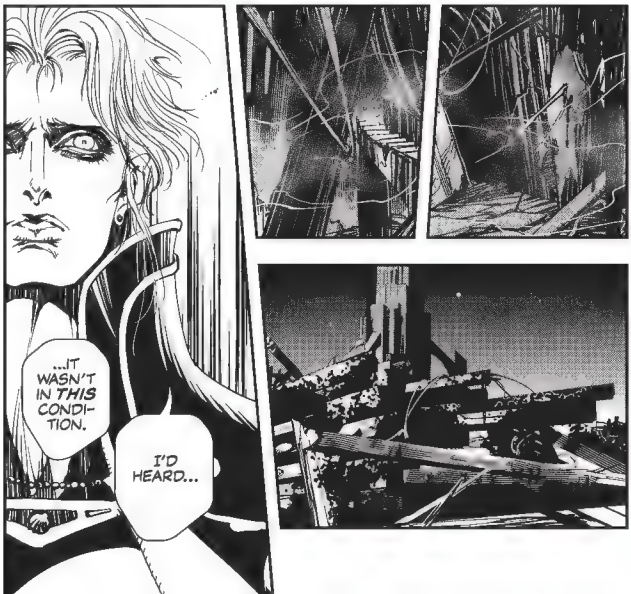
SORRY, D.
YOU APOLOGIZE?
I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU AGAIN.
NO NEED FOR THAT ...
GET SOME SLEEP.
THUD
TOMORROW MORNING I'LL TAKE YOU TO WHERE YOUR VEHICLE'S PARKED.
WE SAY GOOD-BYE THERE.
THEN YOU CAN CHOOSE TO EITHER TAIL ME, OR GO BACK TO YOUR BROTHERS.
YOU SURE ARE KIND.
I'M A BUSINESS RIVAL, YOU KNOW.
IS A WOMAN UNWORTHY OF YOUR SWORD?
IF YOU ATTACK ME, I'LL KILL YOU.
... ...
HUNTING IS NO TRADE FOR A GIRL WHO CALLS OUT TO HER MOTHER WHEN SHE'S CLOSE TO DEATH.
... ...

IT'S NOT FOR WOMEN.
THE MOMENT YOU ENJOY TRACKING DOWN YOUR PREY, YOU CEASE TO HOLD ANY HUMANITY.
HOW LONG...? FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO ANYTHING ELSE.
HOW LONG'VE YOU BEEN A HUNTER?
SNUFF
もぐ。
GEE, THANKS A LOT— LAY OFF...
ドロッ!
ROLL
THERE'S TOO MUCH BLOOD ON MY HANDS.
...I'M PAST THE POINT WHERE I CAN CHANGE HOW I LIVE.
...
...
IT CAN BE WASHED OFF.

WELL LOOKY WHAT I FOUND.
STILL ALIVE, ARE YA?
YOU'RE A LITTLE BUSTED UP, BUT I BET YOU'LL BE PLENTY USEFUL ONCE I BRUSH OFF THOSE ANTS.


I'M KIND OF IN A HURRY.
EXCUSE ME...
IN WE GO!

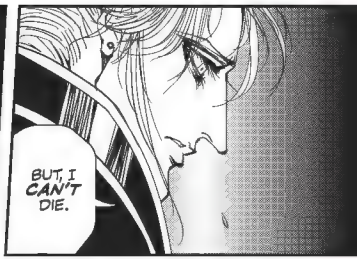

CLAYBOURNE STATES SPACEPORT
NO...
...IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS...


...IT WASN'T IN THIS CONDI-TION.
I'D HEARD...

I CAN ...
...GO ANYWHERE, AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU.
WE CAN ALWAYS BE TOGETHER— UNTIL WE DIE.
(SIT

LET'S JUST GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.
IT'S ALRIGHT.
CARESS

TAKE ME...


BUT, I CAN'T DIE.

THEN...

IT'S OKAY.
I CAN'T DO THAT.
IT'S BEEN MY PLAN SINCE THIS ALL STARTED ...
I DON'T MIND.
HAH HAH HAH

NO!!
Ah
Shock
Scream

I...
WHAT DID I ALMOST DO...?
...WHAT ...
SMILE

IF YOU WITHER AND DIE BEFORE ME,
I'LL JUST FOLLOW AFTER YOU...
WE'RE FINE THE WAY WE ARE.
SHALL WE GO?
THE PATH TO THE STARS IS NO MORE...
...BUT THERE ARE STILL PLACES TO JOURNEY ON EARTH.
NOD

THE JOUR-NEY'S OVER.
HAND OVER THE GIRL.
...IF YOU LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO DO SO.
HIDE
TAKE HER YOUR-SELF...

OVER HERE.
HI!
WAVE
YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT, DIDN'T YOU?
...
...
IT TURNS OUT, THERE **WAS** NO PATH TO THE STARS.
GUESS WHAT, **D.**

SHAK
LUNGE
SHMM
SHOMM

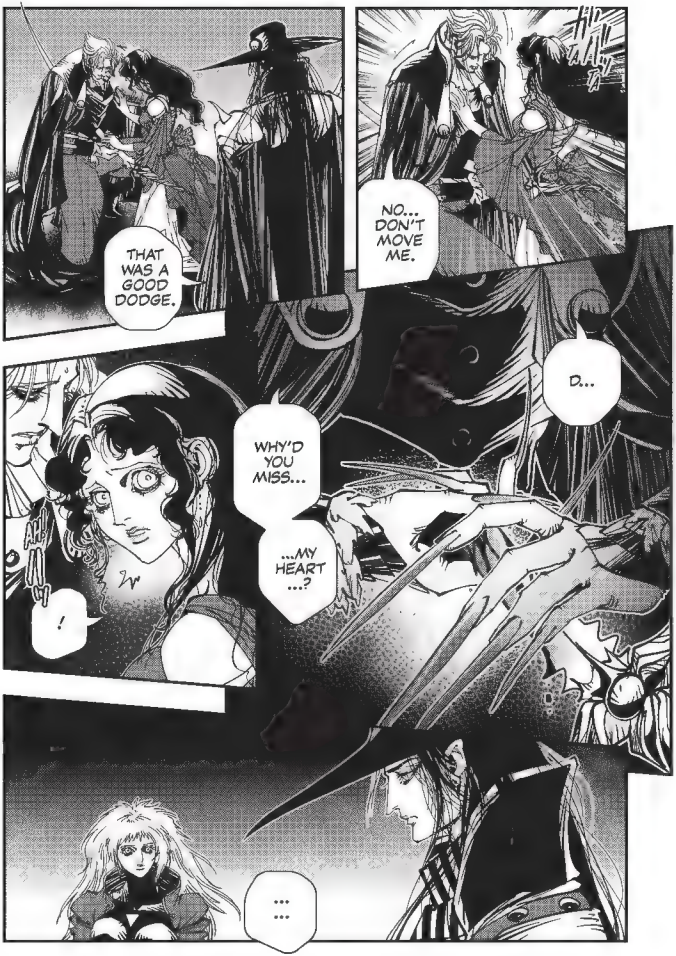
SWIPE
FWOOSH
SNAPPPP
SHEET
SLAP!

SHIN
VROOM
VROOM
SHOOM

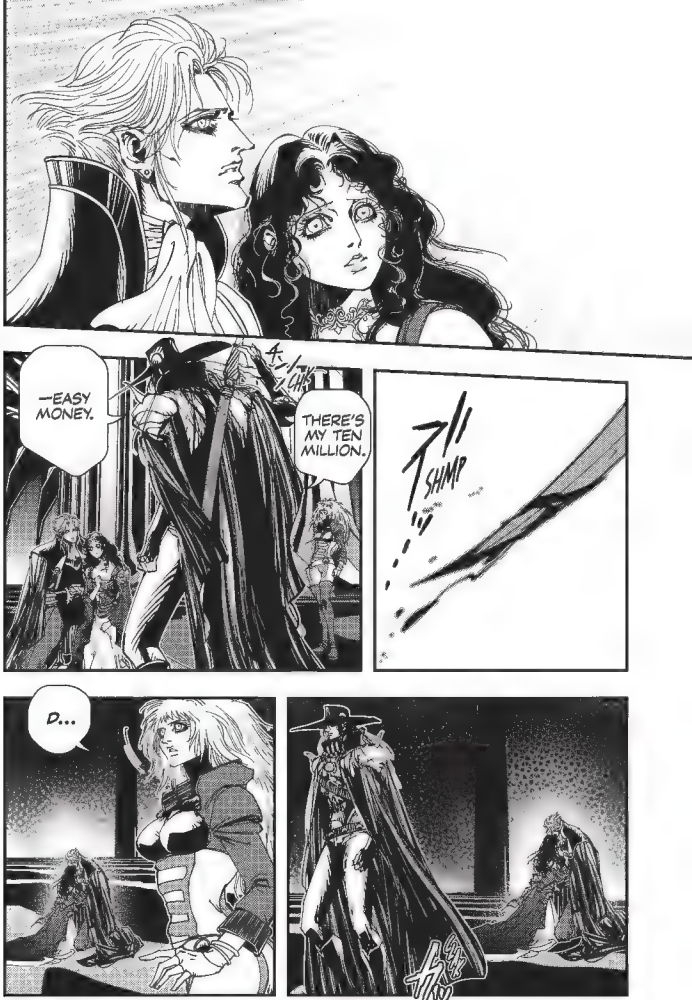
HYNN!
CHING
CHING
CHING
CHING
CHING
CHING
HO
WAAAAA

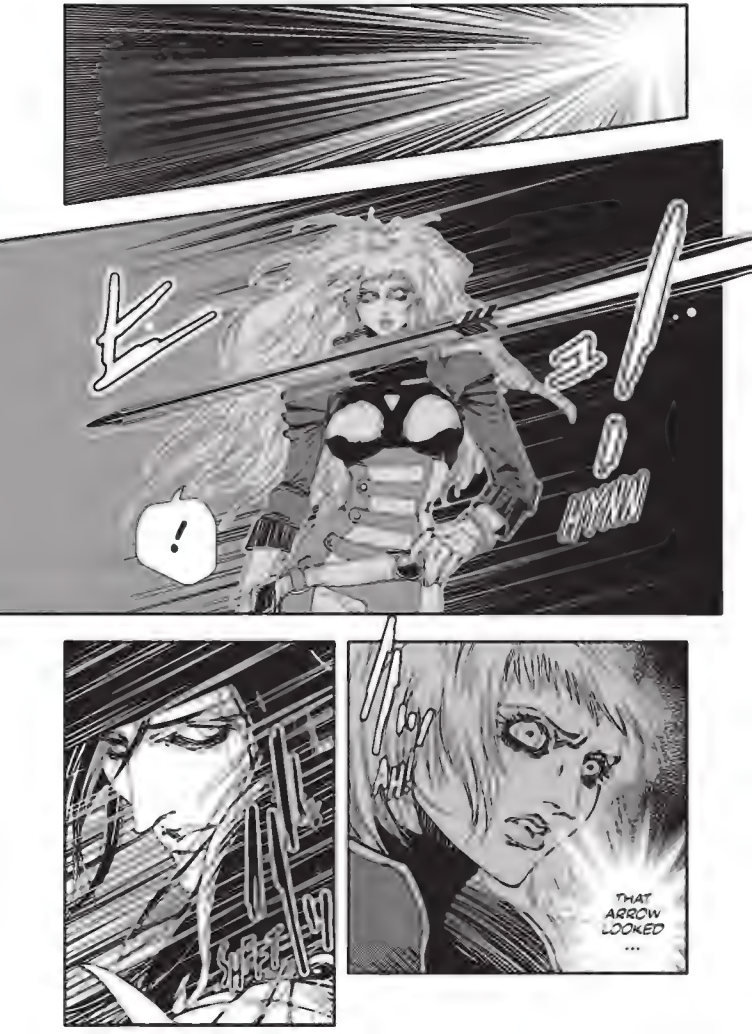
HOP
CHAK
CHAK
SHMM
SHNK

KHAHH

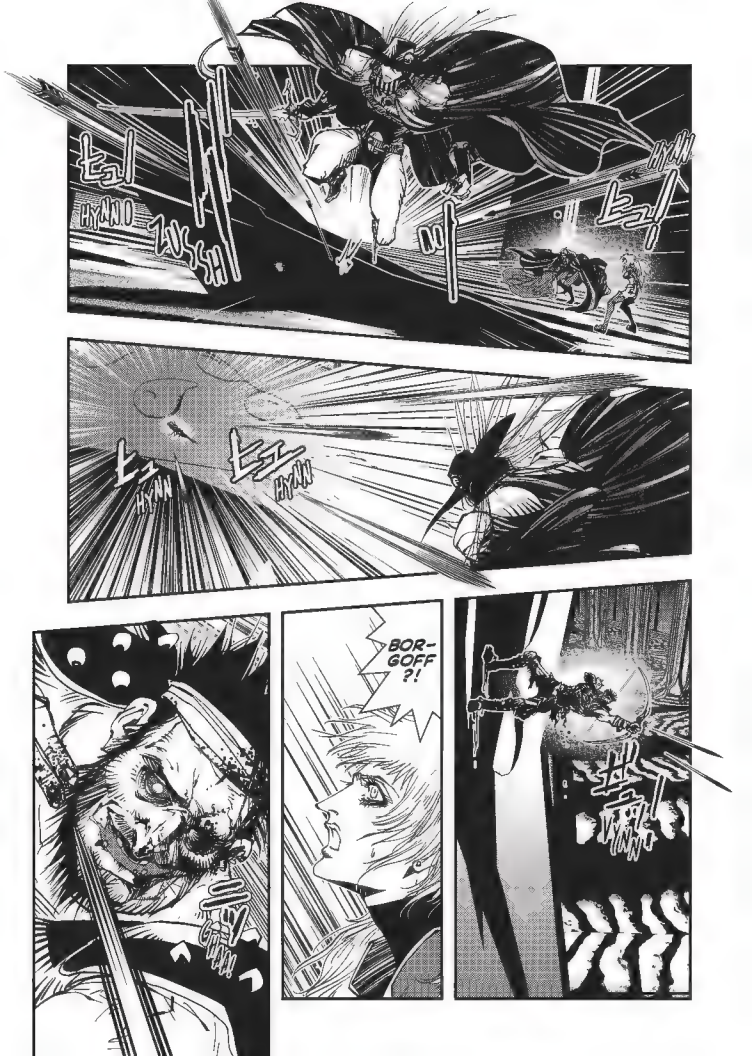

THAT WAS A GOOD DODGE.
NO... DON'T MOVE ME.
AH!
AH!
D...
WHY'D YOU MISS...
...MY HEART ...?
AH!
!
...
...

SNAP
SPIT
LIFT
BARON MAYERLING AND HIS HUMAN LOVER ARE DEAD.
NEVER SHOW YOURSELVES IN PUBLIC AGAIN.
AS LONG AS I HAVE HER HAIR, THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE CAN CONFIRM HER IDENTITY.


—EASY MONEY.
THERE'S MY TEN MILLION.
SHIMP
D...

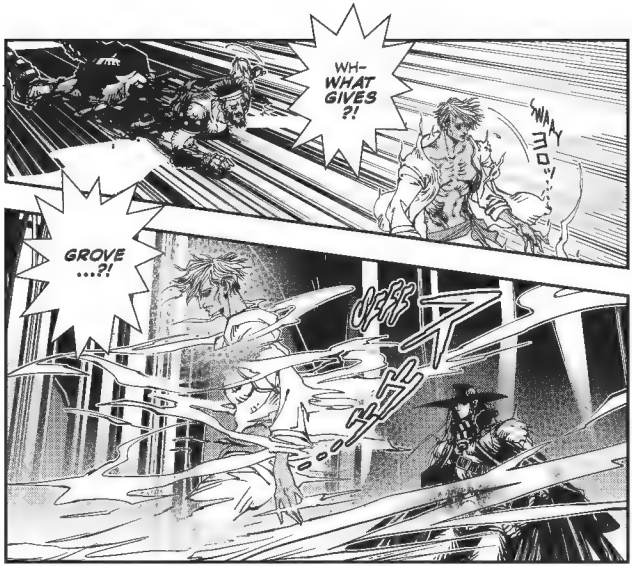

!
THAT ARROW LOOKED ...

THNK


BOR-
GOFF
?!

EHEHEHHH! YOU'RE NEXT, PAL!
VSSH
CLANG
KRAK
SHINK
GOD-DAMN YOU!
BUT IF HIS MEMORY SERVES ME...
I'VE STILL GOT OPTIONS.
CLICK

THOOM!!
THERE YOU ARE, GROVE...
GUHEHEH
GO ON, KILL ALL THESE FUCKIN' ASS-HOLES!
FWAAAM
SOOO...


WH-
WHAT GIVES ?!
GROVE ...?!

BOOOOOO?

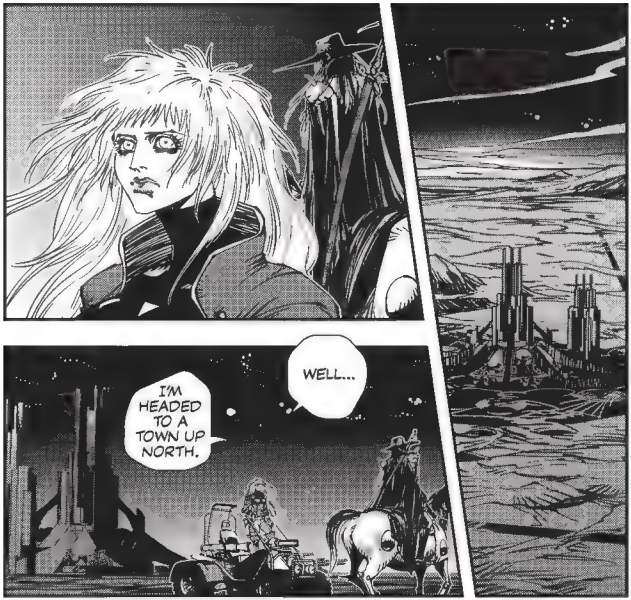
HNNN
PLAP

BLOOD
SH-SHIT!
SLUG
AH!
LIFT
KUWAAAH
WOAHHHHHHE

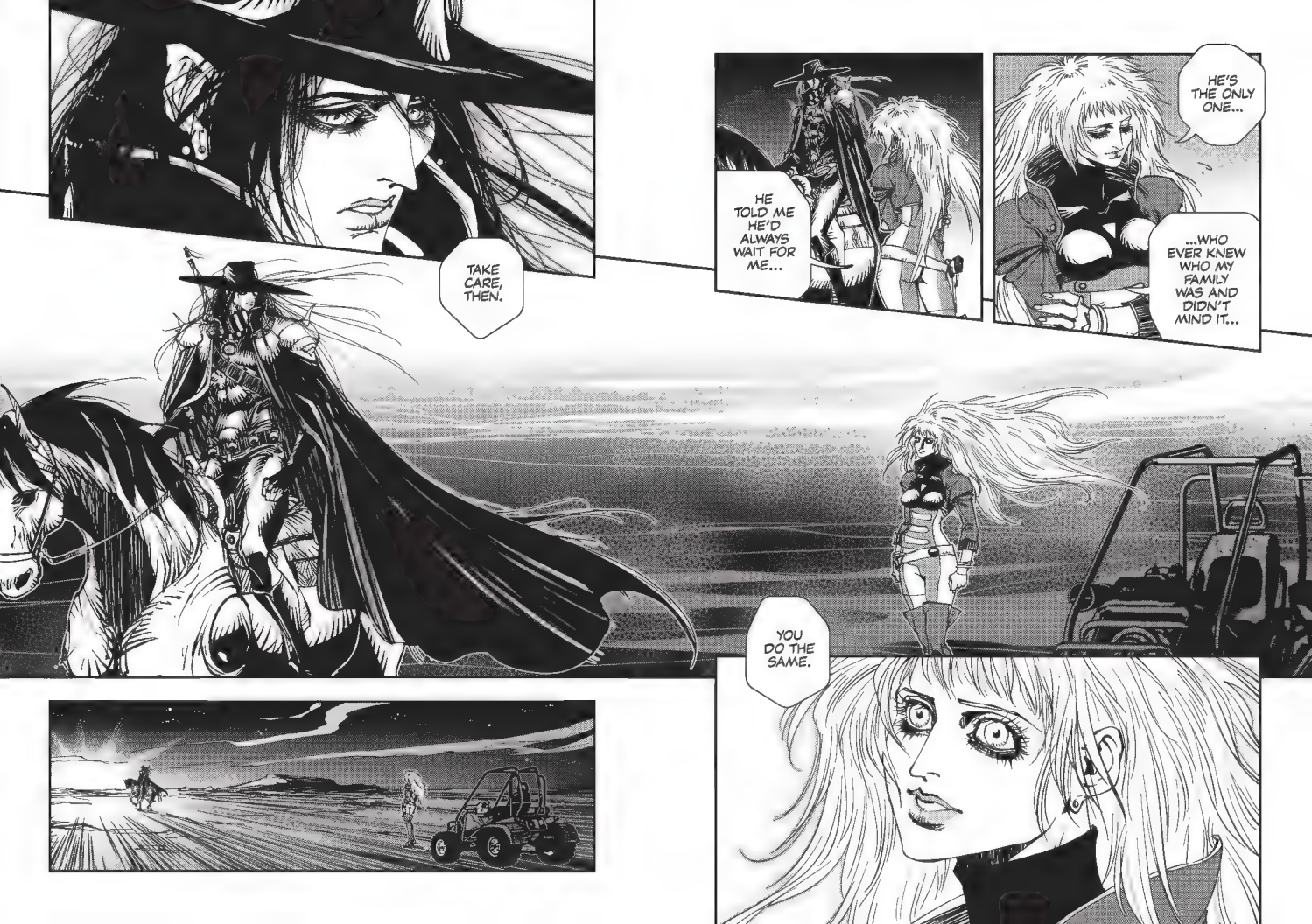
FWSSH
NOOO....
SHRK
KRNCH
KRNCH
OHHH!

SHE IMPALED HERSELF— ON HIS CLAWS...

...SHE SAID "THANK YOU."
SHIFF


WELL...
I'M HEADED TO A TOWN UP NORTH.

A YOUNG BUTCHER THERE ONCE ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM.
IT'S A SMALL TOWN, AND IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S ALWAYS COVERED IN SNOW...


TAKE CARE, THEN.
HE TOLD ME HE'D ALWAYS WAIT FOR ME...
HE'S THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO EVER KNEW WHO MY FAMILY WAS AND DIDN'T MIND IT...
YOU DO THE SAME.

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S VAMPIRE HUNTER D VOL. 3 · END

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AFTERWORD 3

ANIME EXPO AX 2008

MR. KIKUCHI AND I MADE A TRIP OF IT.

A 7-DAY, 5-NIGHT TRIP

IN 2008, IT TOOK PLACE AT THE LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER.

(THE CONCERT AND WHATNOT WERE HELD NEXT DOOR AT THE NOKIA THEATRE.)

ANIME EXPO IS THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS ANIME/MANGA EVENT IN THE U.S.

IT'S HELD AROUND 4TH OF JULY EVERY YEAR.

THERE ARE DOZENS OF EXHIBITOR BOOTHS RANGING FROM ANIME COMPANIES AND PUBLISHERS, GUEST CONCERTS AND AUTOGRAPH SESSIONS, EXHIBITIONS, PANELS (LIKE FOR SYMPOSIUMS AND CORPORATE ANNOUNCEMENTS), DOWN TO ALL THE LITTLE ACTIVITIES HAPPENING ALL AROUND.

IT'S OFTEN COMPARED TO COMIKET IN JAPAN, BUT MY IMPRESSION WAS A CROSS BETWEEN TOKYO GAME SHOW, COMIKET, AND DESIGN FESTA.

THE PLACE IS HUUUGE, AND EXTREMELY CROWDED.

COSPLAY = EXPENSIVE!

*ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

FIRST PRIZE IN THE RAFFLE WAS "DINNER WITH US."

A VERY SHY 19-YEAR-OLD

WE HAD STEAK!

IT WAS A D-RELATED PRESENTATION, Q & A, AND RAFFLE.

DMP HELD A PANEL, TOO.

MR. KIKUCHI

INTER-PRETER

ME

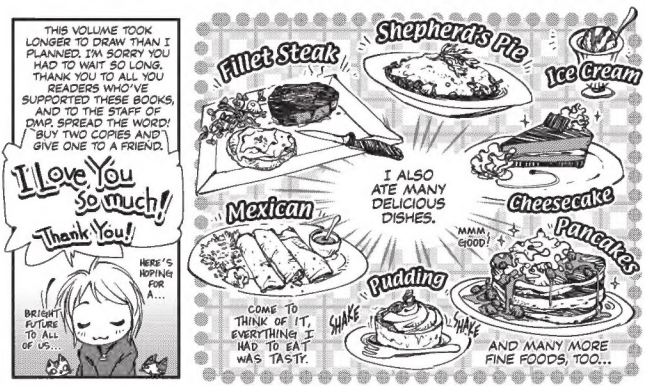
I THINK IT LASTED ABOUT AN HOUR?

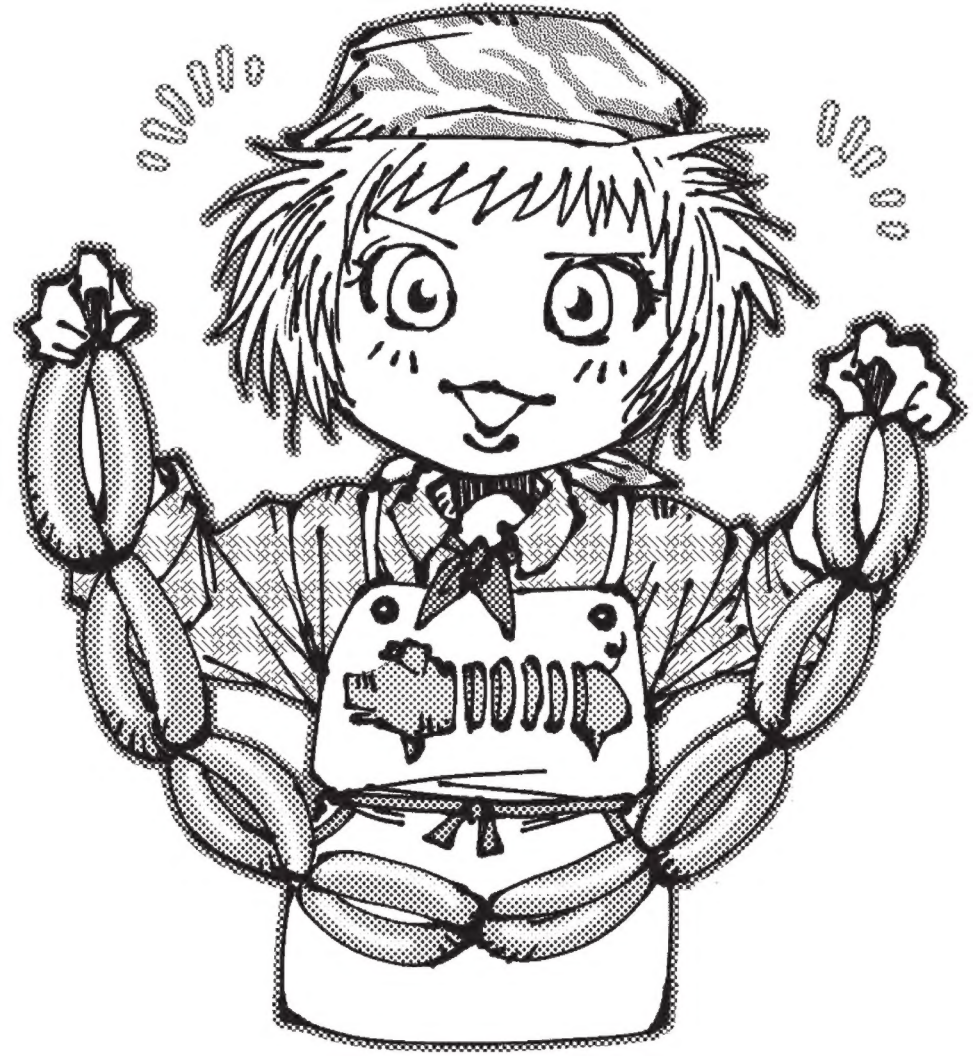
JAAAM-PACKED

THERE WERE LOTS OF LARGE BANNERS OF VAMPIRE HUNTER D!
EXPRESSIONLESS!
HI.
"H-HAI."
Vampire Hunter D
AUTOGRAPH SESSION AT THE DMP BOOTH
Vampire Hunter D 2
NERVOUS
DOK! DOK!
S...SANK-YUUUU.
STILL EXPRESSIONLESS?
I'M THINKING, I'D REALLY LIKE TO TALK TO HER, BUT JUST DOING THIS IS HARD ENOUGH.
STARE
UMM, TO M-I-C-H...
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO MESS UP MY OWN SIGNATURE.
THERE WAS ALSO A CUTE GIRL COSPLAYING AS D.
I DESIGNED IT, AND MY MOM MADE IT BY HAND.
MOM
AGE 17
SHINE
OH! Thank You!
THAT LOVELY EXPRESSION ALWAYS GETS TO JAPANESE PEOPLE EVERY TIME— IT WAS REALLY IMPRESSIVE!
FOR SOME REASON, THIS IS A COMMON PATTERN...
WHOA!
THAT'S BRIGHT

FLINCH
UHYAH-HYAH-HYAH-HYAH!
OKAY-OKAY!
HEYYY-HEYYY!
DURING THE FLIGHT...
ONE TWO THREE FOUR...
MR. KIKUCHI WAS WRITING, AND HE WAS HIGHLY ENERGETIC.

WE ALSO WENT SIGHTSEEING IN LA.
MR. KIKUCHI HOLED UP IN HIS HOTEL ROOM, SAYING HE WANTED TO WRITE. MS. NODA FROM DMP AND I SPENT AN ENJOYABLE HALF OF A DAY SIGHTSEEING.
Farmer's Market
Downtown LA
the Hollywood sign
Hollywood/Highland
Mann's Chinese Theater
Santa Monica
Rodeo Drive
Beverly Hills
BECAUSE IT WAS INDEPENDENCE DAY, THE STREETS WERE EMPTY, SO WE EVEN GOT TO VISIT MORE PLACES THAN WE PLANNED. I RECOMMEND SIGHTSEEING ON HOLIDAYS!
THE DOHENY MANSION (EDWARD DOHENY WAS AN OIL TYCOON.) LEONARDO DICAPRIO'S MANSION (THROUGH OUR CAR WINDOW) KEANU REEVES' MANSION (THROUGH OUR CAR WINDOW)
...etc


THIS VOLUME TOOK LONGER TO DRAW THAN I PLANNED. I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO WAIT SO LONG. THANK YOU TO ALL YOU READERS WHO'VE SUPPORTED THESE BOOKS, AND TO THE STAFF OF DMP. SPREAD THE WORD! BUY TWO COPIES AND GIVE ONE TO A FRIEND.
I Love You so much!
Thank You!
HERE'S HOPING FOR A...
BRIGHT FUTURE TO ALL OF US...
Fillet Steak
Shepherd's Pie
Ice Cream
I ALSO ATE MANY DELICIOUS DISHES.
Mexican
Cheesecake
MMM GOOD!
Pancakes
Pudding
SHAKE
SHAKE
COME TO THINK OF IT, EVERYTHING I HAD TO EAT WAS TASTY.
AND MANY MORE FINE FOODS, TOO...



LIKE IT? BUY IT!

LOVAG